

“PERFORM THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST; FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY”

The Second Letter to Timothy

Who wrote The Second Letter to Timothy?

The Second Letter to Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul during his imprisonment in Rome.

How did The Second Letter to Timothy get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Second Letter to Timothy was named for Paul’s disciple, Timothy, who was the pastoral administrator of the community at Ephesus.

When did these events take place?

Some scholars believe The Second Letter to Timothy could have been written near the end of Paul’s life sometime after 65 A.D.

For more about The Second Letter to Timothy:

See page 1313 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

There is nothing more exciting than watching a 4 x 100 meter relay team compete in a championship race, especially at the end of the season. It’s really like four races in one. Each member thinks of only his or her race. Each runner’s strategy may be different. It depends on what part of the race they are running. One runner may have a better start, another may have greater endurance for the backstretch or one may be a good finisher. Regardless, they are on the team because they all bring specific talents to their leg of the race. What makes relays exciting is that no matter how fast each individual runner is, most of the time, their success as a team comes from their ability to pass the baton from one to the other. Most relays are either won or lost because of the efficiency of these exchanges. One slip, one misstep can cost the whole team the whole race.

The Apostle Paul knew that the same was true for success in the early church. In that effort, his last letter to Timothy (probably the last letter he wrote to anyone) was nothing more than that type of exchange. In 2 Timothy 4:6-8 Paul wrote, “For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time for my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” In this letter, Paul gives Timothy full encouragement, fair warning and complete advice. Like a medley runner, Paul was passing the baton of faith on to his beloved student and friend. He was counting on Timothy to take over the sprint always keeping his eyes on the finish line, no matter how painful or strenuous those last meters might make you feel.

Are you carrying on in that tradition? Have you accepted your Confirmation as the passing of the baton of faith just as Timothy did? Does your life and do your decisions reflect that you are in the race? If not, take a few minutes right now to read The Second Letter to Timothy. You’ll not only be inspired to get into the race but be reminded of how to keep your eyes on the finish line.

Interesting Fact: Paul reminds us that sometimes we may be abandoned or left alone in practicing or proclaiming our faith. He assures us, however, that in the end, God will never leave or forsake us.

Bonus Point: What was Timothy’s grandmother’s name?