

24. The Second Epistle to Timothy

I. Introduction: A different kind of letter: an epistolary testament. Addressed to Timothy, "my beloved child" (1:2)

II. A father's reflection in the form of an epistolary thanksgiving (charin echo to theo, 1:3-9a) I'm all alone; everyone has abandoned me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes (1:15). Except for Onesiphorus, who came to Paul in Rome and helped him in Ephesus (1:15-18) Onesiphorus is known in the apocryphal Acts of Paul as a resident of Iconium who together with Lectra, his wife, and his sons, welcomed Paul in Iconium and hosted him as a guest in their house, the place where the legendary Thecla listened to the apostle for three days and three nights. Two prayers: One for Onesimus" household (v. 16a; cf. 4:19) One for Onesimus (v. 16b)

III. A faith-filled remembrance (2:8-13)

IV. Tough days to come, but that's to be expected (3:1-9; 4:3-4) According to pre-Christian rabbinic tradition, Jannes and Jambres were Egyptian magicians who took part in the "miracle contest" with Moses and Aaron prior to the Exodus (Exod 7:11-8:19).

V. What I want you to do (3:10-13) You know what I have done (vv. 10-13). Now, here's what I want you to do (vv. 14-17). Continue in what you have learned, knowing from whom you learned it. The inspiration and usefulness of scripture (vv. 15-17) I'm dying (4:6-8). I need you and a few things (4:9-16). You (4:9-12, 14-15, 20-21a) And a few things (4:13)

VI. The "letter's" final greetings (4:19, 21b) Third person greetings to Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. Second person greetings from Eusebius, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters are strange in a letter written by someone who is all alone. The final salutation is mixed: "The Lord be with your spirit [meta tou pneumatos sou, singular]. Grace be with you "meth jymilin, plural)" (4:22)

Review Questions

1. What is a testament? Why is this text an epistolary testament?
2. Do the times in which we live have any similarity with what the author says about the final days?
3. Do the inspired scriptures continue to be known? To be read? To be useful?