

2 Timothy

Second Timothy presents itself as a final charge from an imprisoned Paul, urging endurance, faithful teaching, and personal attention to a network under strain.



Interpretive reconstruction. The illustration treats the relationship and custody setting as a literary reconstruction; it does not assert a verified room, chronology, or prison city, and it does not portray the companion as detained.

Date · Confidence: Inferred

c. AD 64–67

Acts does not narrate a second Roman imprisonment, and the exact custody location and date are not independently established.

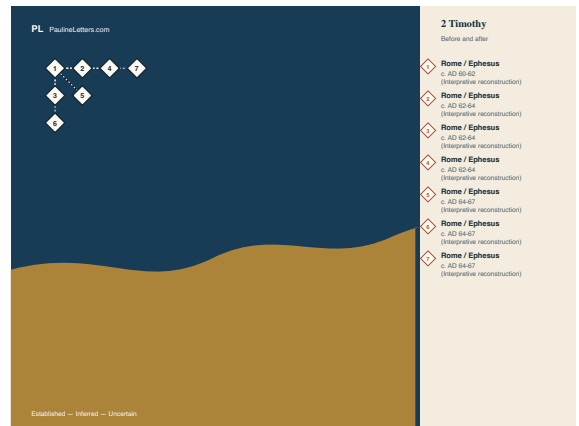
Place · Confidence: Inferred

The letter’s narrative setting presents Paul in custody in Rome. Dating it to a final imprisonment around AD 64–67 depends on direct Pauline authorship and a post-Acts sequence.

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Before and after

- c. AD 60–62** Philippians presents imprisonment as advancing the gospel and includes the Christ hymn. The prison city is debated.
 - Inferred
- c. AD 62–64** On a traditional direct-Pauline reading of 1 Timothy and Titus, their letter settings imply post-Acts ministry: Timothy in Ephesus, Titus in Crete, and a winter plan at Nicopolis. Acts narrates neither a release nor the itinerary, and Nicopolis is not a composition city.
 - Inferred
- c. AD 62–64** First Timothy presents Timothy in Ephesus; direct Pauline authorship and the proposed post-Acts itinerary are debated.
 - Inferred
- c. AD 62–64** Titus presents Titus in Crete to appoint elders; direct Pauline authorship and the proposed post-Acts itinerary are debated.
 - Inferred
- c. AD 64–67** Second Timothy presents an imprisoned speaker in Rome, chained like a criminal. Direct Pauline authorship and a final post-Acts imprisonment are debated.
 - Inferred
- c. AD 64–67** On the traditional reading of disputed Second Timothy, the speaker asks Timothy to come and speaks of the good fight, finished race, and kept faith.
 - Uncertain
- c. AD 64–67** Later Christian tradition places Paul’s martyrdom in Rome during Nero’s reign; the New Testament does not narrate his death.
 - Uncertain



What the text establishes

Established

Second Timothy presents itself as a final charge from an imprisoned Paul, urging endurance, faithful teaching, and personal attention to a network under strain.

The immediate recipient is Timothy, addressed as a trusted coworker who must continue teaching and come to Paul.

Leading reconstruction

The letter’s narrative setting presents Paul in custody in Rome. Dating it to a final imprisonment around AD 64–67 depends on direct Pauline authorship and a post-Acts sequence.

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Other credible readings

Many scholars regard Second Timothy as a later pastoral work, while some still see its personal material as preserving authentic Pauline memories or fragments.

A ten-minute teaching plan

- Second Timothy presents itself as a final charge from an imprisoned Paul, urging endurance, faithful teaching, and personal attention to a network under strain.
- The traditional sequence comes after the post-Acts settings proposed for First Timothy and Titus and before later tradition about Paul’s death.
- The letter’s narrative setting presents Paul in custody in Rome. Dating it to a final imprisonment around AD 64–67 depends on direct Pauline authorship and a post-Acts sequence.
- Many scholars regard Second Timothy as a later pastoral work, while some still see its personal material as preserving authentic Pauline memories or fragments.

Primary texts

Romans through Philemon, World English Bible (public domain).

Acts 7–28, World English Bible (public domain).

Sources

Raymond E. Brown, An Introduction to the New Testament (Doubleday, 1997). — Chapter 31, “Pastoral Letter: The Second to Timothy,” “General Analysis of the Message”
Brown surveys the letter’s argument and pastoral occasion.

Jerome Murphy-O’Connor, Paul: A Critical Life (Oxford University Press, 1996). — Chapter 1, “The Chronological Framework,” “The Evidence from the Pauline Letters” and “The Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles”

Murphy-O’Connor explains why chronology must weigh the letters and Acts without treating either as a complete timetable.

Scripture references only; no protected Scripture body is included.

<https://paulineletters.com/explore/2-timothy>

Questions for discussion

Why was this letter written?

What is secure, and where do careful readers disagree?