

2 Timothy Lesson 1 Articles

We have no details of Paul's travels after his release from his first Roman imprisonment. Titus 3:12 indicates that he visited Nicopolis. He must have departed from there and gone to Troas, where, in a "quick exit," he had left his cloak, books, and parchments (2 Tim. 4:13) with his host, Carpus. How or where he was arrested again, we do not know. We do know that Nero had unleashed a terrible persecution against the Christians, and that Paul's second imprisonment was far different from his first (Acts 28). He was now a hated prisoner in a Roman prison, not an accused man in "his own hired house" awaiting trial. As we read this final letter from Paul's heart, we can sense his loneliness and heartache as he faced his trial and certain martyrdom. "Only Luke is with me," he writes, as he begs his son in the faith, Timothy, to come to him as quickly as possible.

If the Alexander mentioned in 2 Tim. 4:14 is the same as the man in Acts 19:33, then it is possible that Paul's arrest took place in or near Ephesus. When talking to the Ephesian elders, Paul mentioned "plottings of the Jews" (Acts 20:19), and it is possible that Alexander the coppersmith had something to do with these plots. Some students think that Alexander was associated with the guild of idol-makers and that he was unhappy at Paul's first escape from Ephesus.

Timothy was no longer the leader at Ephesus; Tychicus had been sent to take his place (4:12). Apparently Timothy was doing work as a traveling minister and evangelist in the area around Ephesus. Paul expected Timothy to come to Rome because he knew that Timothy would be in Troas (4:13) and Ephesus (1:16–18). These cities were on the road to Rome.¹

Paul used the term "apostle" to refer to one selected by God to serve as an ambassador to herald abroad the gospel (cf. 1 Tim 1:1).

His reason for mentioning the term "apostle" differs somewhat from that in 1 Timothy. There he used the term to lend credibility to his directives to Timothy in the face of much opposition. Here the opposition is in the background, although it has not vanished (see 2 Tim 2:17–18). The use of the term here reinforces Paul's urgent appeals to Timothy to heed and follow Paul and his gospel.

Paul emphasized the divine origin of his apostleship by his reference to God's will in his appointment. In 1 Timothy he had used the term "command of God" to express the basis of his apostolic call. Paul used the phrase "by the will of God" in 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians; and it probably served as a spiritual reminder to Timothy that all his experiences, including hardship, should be based on an assurance of the will of God.

The phrase beginning with "according to" emphasizes the goal and purpose of Paul's apostleship. His mission was to make known that eternal life becomes a reality through fellowship with Christ. Paul was teaching that life becomes available only in Christ.²

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 640). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Lea, T. D., & Griffin, H. P. (1992). *1, 2 Timothy, Titus* (Vol. 34, p. 180). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.