

# ★ Keeping the Faith

The Last Days of Paul

## Lesson 3

### The Teacher's Preparation

**Scripture Passages to Study:** II Timothy 4

**Study Guide:** Read "Keeping the Faith: *The Last Days of Paul*" from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

**Lesson Objective:** Paul had every right to tell Timothy to keep the faith because he had kept the faith even when trials came into his life.

**Lesson Application:** If Paul could go through so much and still keep the faith, we should be able to keep the faith, too!

**Memory Verse:** II Timothy 4:7



"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART..."

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*

—II Timothy 4:7

### The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: Book

### Teacher Tips

When teaching, use different facial expressions, hand gestures and tone of voice based on the story.

# The Teacher's Lesson Plan

## Materials: Book

You may use a book for this illustration or any other items listed in the second paragraph.

## What You Could Say:

In Ecclesiastes 7:8, we read this: “*Better* is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof...” King Solomon, the man who said those words, was the wisest man who had ever lived on this earth (other than Jesus Christ, of course). In the book of I Kings, we read that “God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore... he was wiser than all men... And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth...” This king was so wise that men and women from all over the world came to hear what he had to say.

Let us look again at what King Solomon said in the book of Ecclesiastes: “*Better* is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof...” He is saying that end of something is better than its beginning. You may be wondering what that means. Let me give you some examples. If you like making model cars, which would you rather be doing: reading the instructions on how to build a model car or setting your finished model car on the shelf for all to see? If you like running races, which would you rather be doing: starting a race and worrying about winning or crossing the finish line? If you like reading books, which would you rather be doing: learning about characters or discovering which of those characters committed the crime?

Even the end of a life is better than its beginning. Though it may be sad for family and friends, the homegoing of a saved soul is far better than anything on this earth. He or she will go to Heaven to be with the Lord. In today's lesson, we will learn about the Apostle Paul's last days—his end—on this earth.

# Teacher's Notes

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A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on a cold iron.  
—Horace Mann

# Keeping the Faith

## The Last Days of Paul

1st - 3rd Grade  
Lesson 3

Paul had preached the Gospel for 30 years. Now, he was a prisoner in Rome. He knew he would die soon (II Timothy 4:6). So he wrote some final instructions to a young preacher named Timothy.

### The Testimony of Paul

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

—II Timothy 4:7

Paul was at the end of his life. He had almost finished the work God had given him to do. He knew he would soon see the Lord.

As Paul was waiting to die, he told Timothy, “I have kept the faith.” Through all of his troubles, he stayed true to the Lord. Paul did not have an easy life. He tells us about it in II Corinthians 11:24-28:

*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*

Paul was not afraid to die. He knew he would see Jesus. He knew there was a reward waiting for him in heaven.

*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

—II Timothy 4:8

### The Charge to Timothy

Paul told Timothy that he had to do the work God called him to do: preach the Word, rebuke, and exhort. It was Paul who showed Timothy how to be saved. It was Paul who taught Timothy how to be a preacher. Now, Paul tells him one more time that he must do a good job for the Lord. He told Timothy, “Make full proof of thy ministry” (II Timothy 4:5). He was saying, “Do everything I have taught you to do.”

First, Paul told Timothy to “preach the word.” Timothy was not to preach his own ideas; he

was to preach the Word of God. He was not to leave out any of it. He was not to change it. He was to preach the true Word of God.

Timothy was to “be instant in season, out of season” (II Timothy 4:2). That meant he must preach whether he felt like it or not. And he had to preach from his heart. Paul told him to be ready at all times to preach and to warn people of their sin. Timothy was to tell them to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He was to teach them how to live a holy life. Timothy was to tell people to turn from their sin. He was to tell them that Jesus was not pleased with their sin. He was to tell them there are penalties for sin.

Some people were living right. Paul told Timothy to encourage those people. He was to tell them to keep on living right until they saw Jesus.

### The Application to Believers

The first lesson we can learn from this chapter is that every Christian is a full-time worker for Jesus. There is a job for each of us to do. It doesn't matter if we are a pastor or a teacher or a painter. We should live for Jesus all of the time.

Second, we should be like Paul and finish the work God gives us to do. At the end of our life, we should be able to say what Paul said, “I have finished my course” (II Timothy 4:7).

Third, there is a reward for all those who love Jesus, for those who are waiting for Jesus to return.

*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

—II Timothy 4:8

We must make every effort to work for Jesus now, while there is still time.

## Teacher's Notes

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