

## Handout: 2 Timothy Lesson 2

In 2:19 Paul writes: *“The Lord knows those who are his”*; and, *“Let everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord avoid evil.”*

Paul uses two quotations that allude to the Greek Septuagint translation of Numbers 16:5 and 26. The quotes are from the Chapter about the rebellion of Korah and his followers. He was a Levite who defied the instructions of God’s agents, Moses and Aaron, just as these men defy Christ’s apostles and His Church. God destroyed Korah and all those who followed him as their judgment for failing in obedience God’s commands transmitted to Moses and Aaron. Paul is giving a warning to all false teachers that they will receive the same just punishment of divine judgment and destruction as Korah and his followers. The difference is their punishment will be eternal!

In 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Paul writes about the conditions of the “Last Days” before the return of Christ and the Final Judgment (CCC 1038-41). Paul describes the behavior of most people in the “last days” and lists nineteen negative dispositions:

1. Self-centered	12. Licentious
2. Lovers of money	13. Brutal
3. Proud	14. Hating what is good
4. Haughty	15. Traitors
5. Abusive	16. Reckless
6. Disobedient to their parents	17. Conceited
7. Ungrateful	18. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
8. Irreligious	19. They make a pretense of religion but deny its power
9. Callous	
10. Implacable	
11. Slanderous	

In contrast to the negative traits listed in verses 2-5, Paul lists the positive qualities of Timothy who follows Paul’s teachings and example of living in righteousness in 3:10-11:

1. way of life
  2. purpose
  3. faith
  4. patience
  5. love
- and even in his
6. endurance
  7. persecutions
  8. sufferings

Paul’s list of betrayers and friends in 4:9-22:

1. **Demas** was at one time a loyal companion (Col 4:14; Philem 24) who deserted him because worldly comforts and perhaps fear of imprisonment torn him away from the apostle.
2. **Crescens** left Paul to go to Galatia. Nothing more is known about him.

3. **Titus** is a common Roman name. It is unlikely that the Titus named in 4:10 is the Titus to whom Paul wrote his Letter to Titus who was a trusted associate Paul sent as the bishop in charge of developing the Church on the island of Crete.
4. **Luke** is Paul's companion, physician, and evangelist who wrote the Gospel of Luke and Acts. Luke traveled with Paul on parts of his second and third missionary journeys and was with him at his first Roman imprisonment (Col 4:10-14; Philem 24).
5. **Mark**, also known as John-Mark, is the inspired writer of the Gospel of Mark. He was the son of the Jewish-Christian Mary of Jerusalem in whose home the Apostles regularly met (Acts 12:12) and a cousin of the apostle Barnabas (Col 4:10). He was with Peter in Rome and visited with Paul during his first imprisonment (Col 4:10; Philem 24; 1 Pt 3:13). After the martyrdom of both Paul and Peter, Mark went to Alexandria, Egypt where he preached and served the Christians of Alexandria as their first Bishop (Eusebius, *Church History*, II.16.24) before, according to tradition, he suffered martyrdom.
6. **Tychicus** was one of Paul's trusted couriers who probably carried his letter to Timothy in Ephesus (Eph 6:21; Col 4:7-9; Tit 3:12).
7. **Carpus** is a man from Troas with whom Paul left a cloak he wants to be returned.
8. **Alexander** the coppersmith is possibly a heretic Paul excommunicated for blasphemy along with Hymenaeus. Paul mentioned him in the first letter to Timothy (1 Tim 1:20). He is not to be confused with Alexander who was one of the Christian sons (Rufus and Alexander) of Simon of Cyrene (Mk 15:21; Rom 16:13).
9. **Priscilla and Aquila** are a married couple and dear friends of Paul. They were living in Rome (Rom 16:3-5) but have returned to Ephesus. Notice he gives her the affectionate nickname of Prisca and names her before her husband. They assisted Paul in his ministry in Corinth (Acts 18:2-3) and Ephesus (Acts 18:19-26; 1 Cor 16:19). In his letter to the Romans, Paul wrote that they risked death to save his life, and all the Gentile communities are indebted to them, but he does not give the details of their courageous acts (Rom 16:3-5).
10. **Erastus** was the treasurer of the city of Corinth (Acts 19:22; Rom 16:24).
11. **Trophimus** was from the province of Asia and accompanied Paul from Greece to Troas (Acts 20:4-5).
12. **Eubulus**, a disciple of Paul's and a member of the community at Corinth in Greece, is only named here.
13. **Linus** may be the Pope St. Linus listed as the successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Rome and **Claudia** is probably his mother.
14. **Pudens**, a layman of the Roman church, was an early Christian saint and martyr. According to tradition, he was a Roman senator who housed St. Peter while he was in Rome and was baptized by him. Pudens suffered martyrdom during Emperor Nero's Christian persecutions.

According to Christian tradition, Saints Paul and Peter suffered martyrdom in Rome on the same day on June 29, AD 67. Paul was beheaded and Peter was crucified upside down at his request.