

## **2 Timothy, part 2**

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“Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it.”

2 Tim 3:14

“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

1 Tim 4:16

1. In his efforts to encourage Tim, Paul appeals to what one might call his *chain of belief*. Who and what, infering from this letter, were instrumental to Tim’s faith?
2. How does the chain of belief, for Tim and in general, relate to the transmission of the faith in the church at Ephesus? Why does Paul focus on this in Tim’s case—how is it relevant to their situation and difficulties?
3. Based on *What American Teenagers Believe*<sup>1</sup>:
  - a) How is the church in the US doing at establishing the chain of belief in its youth?
  - b) How do the problems faced by Tim and the Ephesians compare to ours?
  - c) Paul warns of false teachers “having the form of godliness but lacking the power” (3:5). Do you see any similarities with the faith described in this interview?
4. In 2:11-13, Paul quotes a hymn. How was this relevant to Tim’s plight? How would the teenagers described in *What... Teenagers Believe* react to these ideas? Answer the same questions with respect to the two sayings in 2:19, and 2:20-22.
5. “There is some reason to believe that Timothy was temperamentally timid and retiring by nature (cf. 1:7), with a weak stomach and a shy disposition, hence needing authoritative written instructions so that when later challenged he could appeal to the Apostle’s letter (1 Tim 3:14-15; 4:12; 5:23; 1 Cor 16:10)” (Oden, p. 7). What do you think? Can you discern sections of the letter which Paul included as fodder for Tim’s enemies?
6. What are the similarities and differences between 2 Tim and 1 Thess, and why?

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<sup>1</sup> An interview with Christian Smith from Books & Culture, Jan/Feb 2005.