Road Sign: Trials Ahead, Trials Behind
The message of 2 Timothy for Christ's Church today

Occasion

The Apostle Paul is facing martyrdom. He was imprisoned under Emperor Nero in AD 65-66. He writes this 'last will and testament' for the Church from a cold prison cell days or months before his execution in AD 66 or 67.

Purpose of Paul   To tell Timothy to come to Rome before it is too late.
                        To give a last note of encouragement to Timothy in his ministry

Outline
> 1. Persevere in Present Testings   (Chapters 1-2)
> 2. Endure in Future Testings   (Chapters 3-4)

Persevere in Present Testings   (Chapters 1-2)

1.   Paul is about to be killed for the faith. He knows dark days are ahead for Timothy. What gives him joy about Timothy's ability to endure those coming days? (1:5-9)

2.   Should the Christian be ashamed of our faith? After all, Paul is a convicted criminal, yet most of the New Testament was written by him. Can it really be trusted? How does Paul explain to Timothy the sufferings he was enduring?   (1:8, 12)

3.   What kind of experiences should the Christian expect in this life, especially the Christian leader?   (2:3, 17-18)

4.   Is the Christian leader to be active or passive during these trials?   (1:13,14; 2:1-2,4)
>   2 Timothy is a great place to show the perfect harmony between God's sovereignty and human responsibility. In addition to the above verses, see 2:19.

5.   Sometimes we have a bad day, are under severe stress and trials, and so we sinfully react to others. How is Timothy to endure the strain of these trials? (2:23-26)

Endure in Future Testings   (Chapters 3-4)

1.   Describe the "perilous times" of the last days. (3:1-9; 4:3-4) Does this sound familiar?

2.   How can we possibly endure these perilous times? (3:10-17)

3.   What role does the Church play in world history during these perilous times? (4:1-5)

4.   Describe the confidence of the Christian as they face the hour of death. (4:6-8, 17-18)

>   a.   The role of God's sovereignty

>   b.   The role of Man's responsibility

>   i.   Notice also the legacy of a Christian