

PAUL'S SWAN SONG

Two Eternal Investments

2 Timothy 1:13–18



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Time was short. The end was near. At any moment, the executioner could yank Paul away, his letter to Timothy unfinished. Paul had to write quickly, but carefully. It's foolish for prisoners on death row to waste words. Paul didn't. Every verse in 2 Timothy, including the last six verses of chapter 1, echoes an everlasting truth: "All that is not eternal is eternally out of date."¹ To that end, Paul reminded Timothy (and us) that only two things are eternal and worthy of lifelong investment.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. A Brief Review

Before we look at the two eternal investments discussed in 2 Timothy 1:13–18, let's review what we've learned thus far.



Quotable

*When making
an investment in
eternity, remember:
stand firm in the
eternal treasure of
the truth and value
the eternal lives of
others.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2009 and Message Mate copyright © 2015 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM04

PAUL'S SWAN SONG

Two Eternal Investments

2 Timothy 1:13–18

2. A Passionate Charge Regarding the Truth (2 Timothy 1:13–14)

The truth of God's Word is eternal (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35). For that reason, as an apostle of God's gospel, the suffering Paul endured was only temporary (2 Timothy 1:8, 12). Condemned to die an earthly death, Paul invested the eternal truth of the gospel into the hands of his protégé with a dual command.

Retain the Standard of Sound Words (2 Timothy 1:13)

Guard . . . the Treasure (1:14)

3. A Realistic Reminder Regarding People (2 Timothy 1:15–18)

The truth of the gospel is eternal and worthy of our investment. So are people, who possess eternal souls and have eternity in their hearts (Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 3:11). But people carry a risk unlike those associated with God's Word—our investment in people doesn't always pay dividends . . . but sometimes it does.

Those Who Disappoint Us (2 Timothy 1:15)

Those Who Refresh Us (1:16–18)



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2009 and Message Mate copyright © 2015 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM04

PAUL'S SWAN SONG

Two Eternal Investments

2 Timothy 1:13–18



A CLOSER LOOK

Praying for the Dead

Much has been made of the change of tense between verses 16 and 18 in 2 Timothy 1 — “the household of Onesiphorus” and “what services he *rendered* at Ephesus” (emphasis added). This has led some to speculate that Onesiphorus had died — perhaps as a result of Nero’s persecution — by the time Paul wrote to Timothy. Those who hold to this view see in Paul’s prayer — “the Lord [Christ] grant to [Onesiphorus] to find mercy from the Lord [the Father] on that day” (2 Timothy 1:18) — a prayer for the dead.

Not so.

Paul’s prayer for mercy does refer to the day of judgement (1:12; 4:8). But nowhere in Scripture, whether by example or instruction, are Christians led to pray for the dead. So whether Onesiphorus had died or Paul was simply blessing Onesiphorus past deeds, as the apostle did with the very much alive Stephanas (1 Corinthians 16:15, 17), Paul’s prayer is better seen as a reflection of Jesus’ beatitude in Matthew 5:7; “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”



LET’S LIVE IT

Investing is risky business. There’s no guarantee you’ll earn dividends. In fact, you could lose the shirt off your back. But Paul advised us on two investments that are always worth making because they are the only two things that will last into eternity — God’s Word and people. So let’s follow Paul’s example and *invest in the eternal treasure of the truth and in the eternal souls of people.*

What are you doing to “retain the standard of sound words” and “guard the treasure”?



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2009 and Message Mate copyright © 2015 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM04

PAUL'S SWAN SONG

Two Eternal Investments

2 Timothy 1:13–18

Do you have, or have you had, an Onesiphorus in your life? If so, write a prayer of thanksgiving for him or her.

To whom can you be an Onesiphorus?

ENDNOTE

1. C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1988), 137.



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2009 and Message Mate copyright © 2015 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM04

PAUL'S SWAN SONG

Two Eternal Investments

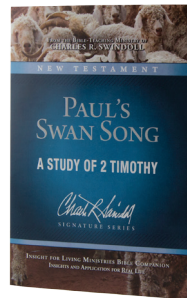
2 Timothy 1:13–18



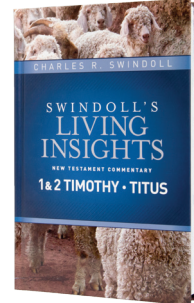
Tools for Digging Deeper



Paul's Swan Song
by Charles R. Swindoll and
Insight for Living Ministries
CD series and softcover Bible Companion



Paul's Swan Song
by Charles R. Swindoll and
Insight for Living Ministries
softcover Bible Companion



**Swindoll's
Living Insights
New Testament
Commentary:
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus**
by Charles R. Swindoll
hardcover book

For these and related resources, visit www.insightworld.org/store
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2009 and Message Mate copyright © 2015 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM04