

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Final Words

Today we come to the end of 2 Timothy – 17 studies began in April.

A) Today we are going to look at Paul's final words – Not just in this book – but his final recorded words –

B) Break up this Final section in this way:
The Request
The People
The Comfort

Read Verses 9-22

The Request: V.9 Come quickly – v.21 come before winter.

A) The journey would take Timothy 4-6 months over land and sea—mostly land—by way of Troas

B) Go thru Ephesus, Macedonia, two water crossing then over the Italian Mts and down into Rome.

C) Paul called Timothy to come before winter – because if he delayed – if he procrastinated He wouldn't make it.

1) Too hard to travel that far in the winter and Paul would have been dead.

Procrastination destroys many good intentions.

A) Some things must be done "before winter" or they will not be done at all.

B) There are doors of opportunity that open before us today, but if we do not take advantage of them, they will be forever shut.

Examples:

A) More marriages die because of slow neglect than from deliberate desertion.

B) Things essential and basic are neglected every day. We mean to say a word of encouragement, but we never get around to it.

C) We mean to write a letter, or make a call but it never gets done.

1) We mean to share Christ with a neighbor,
2) We intend to get serious in our Christian faith.

D) We hope to pray more, we want to read the Bible.

We have great dreams and high ideals, but time and neglect and the cares of life sap our strength & divert us until the day comes when our resolve is gone.

A) Our marriage has grown cold, our children have left home, our spiritual life has grown dull.

B) Come before winter! The whole idea here is there was an urgency to this request:

C) Same is true of us – **Times when the Lord says Deal with this and do it now!**

The Bible says: "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:13-14).

A) That's all we are, just a vapor, a mist, we're dust in the wind, like the grass of the field that is here today and gone tomorrow.

B) What is Christ calling you to take care of today?

1) Do it – don't procrastinate – you will be the better for it – Don't miss the opportunity.

2nd Request: Bring Mark – Great Story of 2nd Chance

A) Mark was the cousin to Barnabas – he joined Paul and Barnabas on their 1st missionary journey – mid way thru change of heart – went home

B) This bothered Paul – **he looked at Mark as being a Flake**

1) When it came time for Barnabas and Paul to go out on their 2nd missionary Journey – Barnabas – *Son of encouragement* - Mark a 2nd chance

C) But Paul was not into that at all. The whole matter turned into a dispute between Paul & Barnabas – **that led to their splitting up.**

1) Paul went out with Silas and Barnabas went somewhere else with Mark

D) Mark Proved himself with **Barnabas and ended up ministering** with Peter who also was no stranger to failure (Denial) & Knew about 2nd Chances

Now what is really cool about Mark's story is that his relationship w/ Paul also eventually was restored

A) **IN Philemon 24 Paul names Mark among his fellow workers**

B) And in 2 Tim 4:11 Paul tells Timothy to "pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service."

C) Paul told the Colossians that if Mark came to them, they were to obey his instructions and welcome him.

1) They were not to shun him because of his previous failure.

Now If the story ended there it would really be great, but it doesn't.

A) Mark continued on in the ministry and was used by the Spirit to do what only **three other men in history were called to do**, write down an account of the life of Jesus, the Gospel of Mark.

B) The great lesson of Mark's life is that God heals & restores and He uses those whom He does restore.

1) His life was a testimony to God's ability to use failures that God is the God of the second chance, even in ministry.

C) Maybe you have had some failures in life or in ministry – Mark's life is a testimony that you can be used again.

1) God still has a place for you on His team –

3rd Request: V.13 Bring my cloak – my books – my Parchment

A) It seems very likely that Paul was re-arrested by the Roman authorities in Troas.

B) This happened so quickly and so unexpectedly that he had no time to return to the home of Carpus, where he was staying, and gather his belongings.

C) Paul was dragged off probably while Timothy looked on, the tears streaming down his face, as Paul said in Chapter 1 of this letter, **"I remember your tears at our parting,"**

Paul wants Timothy to stop by Troas and pick up these things on his way.

A) The cloak was what we today would call a poncho, a circular garment with a hole in the middle for the head,

B) It was made of very warm, heavy wool garment that served as both coat and blanket in cold weather.

C) Books probably refers to papyrus scrolls, possibly of Old Testament books.

1) Or Possibly copies of the Gospels- Paul's final days find his solace and comfort in the word of God

D)Parchments were what Paul used to write his letters and thoughts on.

1) Journal – write down – great way to open up the word

THE PEOPLE: Highlight a few - 2 Bad

A) First is Demas, who had been Paul's fellow worker, had forsaken him.

B) With obvious pain & heartache, Paul gives the reason for this -- Demas was **"in love with this present World"**

C) Departure was subtle Philemon he is called a fellow worker – Colossians, just Demas

D) Started over time – backsliding always does - All of us Know a Demas – Forsaken the Lord because they loved this present world

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Saw a powerful illustration in our study on Wed night: **Those who love the World – will serve the world –**

God says: Let them distinguish it is a lot better to serve me! People serving sin are miserable – Old aged

The next problem person He mentions Verse 14 is Alexander the Coppersmith

A) He did me much Harm!

B) The word that is used for "did me harm," is the word that is frequently used in **Greek for an informer.**

1) Possibly the one who turned Paul over to the Romans as declaring - Paul to be an enemy of Cesare

C) And If this is the same Alexander who is mentioned in the first letter to Timothy -- there he is linked with the name Hymenaeus, and of both of them the apostle says, **"I have delivered them to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme"** –

D) That would be the motive for Alexander's deliberate attempt to hurt the apostle by betraying him to the Roman authorities.

E) Timothy would be passing through there, so Paul warns him, **"Watch out for Alexander; he'll do you in if he gets a chance."**

But notice where the apostle rests his case: "May the Lord repay him for his deeds"

A) Human side of Paul – watch out for this guy – and I hope the Lord takes care of him.

B) In Romans 12, reminding himself that the Lord has said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay,"
{Romans

The People. the Blessings –

A)V.10 Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia"

B) Both of these had gone out on missions.

V.12 Tychicus to Ephesus – take over for Timothy while he was gone to Paul.

C) Dependable Luke.

1) Personal Physician

2) Biographer

D) Stuck with Paul thru thick and thin – Imprisonment - Ship wreck –

E) He was with Paul during his first Prison term in Rome and stuck with him to the end. Some might read

Luke was a tough friend for tough times.

A) Luke was a true friend – sacrificed his own comfort to stand by Paul -

B) Jonathan with David.

C) In V.19-21 We have some names we've seen before. **Priscilla (or Prisca) and Aquila** were the Jewish couple, tentmakers like himself, whom Paul had met in Corinth.

D) Every time they appear in Scripture they have a church meeting in their home.

Paul greets the family of Onesiphorus.

A) We read about Onesiphorus in Ch.1 Paul mentioned that he came to Rome to search out Paul.

B) To find him in Prison and Paul said of him – He refreshed me often. .

V.20 "Trophimus," Paul says, "I left ill at Miletus."

A) Notice Paul didn't say, "Why are you still sick? Where's your faith?"

B) No, some were healed when Paul prayed for them; some weren't. Trophimus was one who wasn't.

C) This is a remarkable word, because if we are to believe many of the faith healers of our day it is absolutely wrong for a Christian ever to be ill.

1) It is because of a lack of faith, they say.

D) Paul was used many times to Pray for pp to be healed

But not Trophimus

E) Paul's own thorn in the flesh!

I wish the Lord healed everyone – Amy Diabetics

A) But he doesn't always

B) Side note: Don't make excuses for God – Pray in faith –

1) If God chooses to not heal someone – we can deal with the questions as to why later.

C) Pray believing expecting – God to move and heal

1) Trophimus was one of the ones like Paul that God chose not to heal

THE COMFORT: Verses 17-18

But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve *me* for His heavenly kingdom. To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!

A) When Paul was in Prison in Rome – Luke stayed with Him – but no one in Rome came to his defense.

B) No one in Rome put in a good word – they were all scared of Nero

C) The fact that no one stood up for the apostle could have led to his immediate execution.

1) But that did not happen because, as Paul says, "The Lord stood by me."

D) He is the One on whom you can always count. Heb 13:5 tells us that God has promised, "**I will never, never, ever, under any conditions** (there are six Greek negatives thrown in there) **leave you nor forsake you,**"

E) The writer's response is, "**What, then, can man do to me?**" {cf, Heb 13:6}.

This too is Paul's experience. The presence of Jesus with him and beside him, Paul says, accomplished two things:

A) First, it "gave him strength to testify."

B) Indication is that Paul had his voice before Nero – like he did before Agrippa – Paul Preached the gospel

1) That is one sermon – I look forward to hearing replayed in Heaven

C) Second, Paul says, "He delivered me from the lion's mouth."

Some have read that to mean that Paul was afraid he was going to be thrown to the lions in the Roman Coliseum.

Unlikely since he was a Roman citizen

He was facing death by beheading.

D) The "lion" here is very likely a reference to Satan. 1 Peter 5:8 -

1) Prowling – seeking who he can devour – sink teeth and claws into.

Paul says – He didn't get me!

A) Reminds me of Shadrach M. / A. – Our God will deliver us! You can set us free or throw us into the fire but either way – we will be delivered.

B) Paul: I was delivered {Our God is a Deliver! Final salutation

The Lord be with your spirit.

A) That is the foundation of life, the rock upon which all else must be built:

B) The union of our spirit with the Lord's Spirit to make us new persons in Christ. {Born Again

C) The daily supply that we need to encourage, strengthen and feed that union is grace, the daily grace of our Lord. So Paul concludes,

Grace be with you. {2 Tim 4:22b RSV}

"Grace be with you" in these pressure-filled times when we, like Timothy, are called to keep the faith in dark days, and to stand for the truth amidst the pressures of life.

Paul began with Grace – He ends with Grace – Grace was what sustained him for the time in between –

His Grace in which I stand

His Grace is sufficient

Are you living in His Grace? His Sufficiency?

Paul called on Timothy to come before Winter – Jesus calls us to come all who are weary and heavy laden

He gives More Grace – Maybe you are a Mark – get back in the game

Like Demas – Stop your running, the world has nothing for you.

Come back to His Grace!

Unbeliever

Christ stands at the door of your heart

It is Christ who calls to us. He speaks to us today.

He stands and knocks at the door of your heart. Will you open the door and let Him in? He says, “**Come unto me. Come now. Don’t delay. Don’t put it off.**”

Jesus said to Zaccheus, “**Come down out of that sycamore tree. I’m going to your house today.**”

The Bible says, “**Behold, now is the day of salvation.**” The sweetest word and the most solemn word of salvation is the little word “today.”

Today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow may never come.