

II TIMOTHY 4:9-22
FAREWELL!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to II Timothy chapter 4 as we continue our in-depth study of Paul's last letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. And this morning we will be finishing up this letter.

Remember what we looked at last time in II Timothy 4:6, where Paul said, **“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this. It says, **“For I am already about to be sacrificed [my life is about to be poured out as a drink offering]; the time of my [spirit's] release [from the body] is at hand and I will soon go free.”**

As you can see, Paul knew that he was not going to be released from prison this time, but he was going to be put to death for his faith in Jesus Christ!

And this phrase, **“my departure is at hand”**, specifically the word **“departure”** speaks of him preparing to go home to be with the Lord.

What do I mean by that?

This word has a few meanings, or I should say it paints for us a few different pictures.

We see that this word speaks of the unloosing of a ship from its moors, as Paul is ready to set sail home to heaven.

This word speaks of the unyoking of a weary team of animals after a hard day's work, and Paul has finished the work that God has called him to do, he is going to enter that rest.

And this word speaks of the striking of a tent, taking it down so you can move on, and Paul was going to leave this earthly tent for a mansion!

Make no mistake about it, Paul knew he was going to die, and he is passing the mantle of ministry to Timothy, his son in the faith.

And listen again to what Paul said in II Timothy 4:7, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”**

Paul finished this race of faith strong and now, as he is finishing up this letter, Paul is going to tie up some loose ends, and he is going to say goodbye to his son in the faith, Timothy!

How could Paul be so sure that in his death he was going to be with the Lord?

Because he spent time with the Lord, he understood God’s promises and not only understood them, but he trusted them, believed that they would all come to pass.

In fact, we closed last time with these words from Paul in II Timothy 4:8, **“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”**

Again, listen to what The Amplified Bible says regarding this verse. We are told, **“[As to what remains] henceforth there is laid up for me the [victor’s] crown of righteousness [for being right with God and doing right], which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me and recompense me on that [great] day - and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and yearned for and welcomed His appearing (His return).”**

Paul was confident about what awaited him, and he wanted Timothy, and the Holy Spirit wants us to understand that to be absent from this body, we will be present with the Lord! What a precious promise! (II Corinthians 5:8)

People are confident about death, but their confidence is based upon their feelings many times. My confidence, as Paul’s, is based in the truths of God found in the Word of God and I can take that to the bank!

There is our hope, in the promises that God has given to us, and God is faithful and what He has promised us He is more than able to bring to pass!

God is more than able and let me show you a few Scriptures to encourage you to trust in the Lord and not let the enemy confuse you or discourage you, no matter what you are going through.

God is more than able . . .

- He is able to make you stand: Romans 14:4.
- He's able to establish you: Romans 16:25.
- He's able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before His glory: Jude 24.
- He's able to make all grace abound toward you: 2 Corinthians 9:8.
- He's able to keep that which you've committed unto Him against that day: 2 Timothy 1:12.
- He's able to build you up: Acts 20:32.
- He's able to subdue all things: Philippians 3:21.
- He's able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think: Ephesians 3:20.
- He is able to save you to the uttermost: Hebrews 7:25.

We need to trust in the promises that God has for us. Paul did and so should we.

How do I know that Paul trusted in the promises of God. We have seen in this letter to Timothy all that was before him and yet, his faith was in the promises of God. He kept the faith!

I also want you to keep in mind where Paul was when he wrote this letter to Timothy.

He is in the Mamertine prison there in Rome. And it was not a nice place. It was cold. It was damp. It was dirty. It smelled bad. And if you died in that prison that was fine because Rome would not have to put you to death and that was a benefit to them.

What is interesting to me is what Paul focuses on. He is not focusing on all the dirt and filth and cold that he has to be in day and night, Paul is not going to deal with that, but he will focus on ministry as we will see.

I have called our study – ***FAREWELL!***

And as you will see, it is Paul’s farewell address, you might say, to Timothy and really to us.

Let me share some goodbyes from Christian men and listen to how powerful they are.

Martin Luther said, ***“Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation: God is the Lord by whom we escape death.”***

That is a great perspective to have.

John Knox said, ***“Live in Christ, live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death.”***

Absolutely because to be absent from the body is to be with Christ!

John Calvin said, ***“Thou, Lord, bruise me; but I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from Thy hand.”***

Calvin understood that his life was in the hand of God and in the end, he would be with His Lord and Savior!

John Wesley said, ***“The best of all is, God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!”***

The reason he could be so confident is because he had a relationship with the living God and thus, his farewell was to those who were left behind, you might say. He was going to be with the Lord!

And Charles Wesley said, ***“I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness - satisfied, satisfied!”***

I like that and God is molding and shaping our lives down here, so we fit in up there. He is making us more like Him!

And here with Paul's *FAREWELL* we see four main points that we will be looking at.

They are,

FRIENDS AND FOES – II TIMOTHY 4:9-10

STILL MINISTERING – II TIMOTHY 4:11-13

WARNINGS – II TIMOTHY 4:14-18

FAREWELL – II TIMOTHY 4:19-22

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in II Timothy chapter 4, beginning in verse 9 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at Paul's

FAREWELL to Timothy!

II TIMOTHY 4

VERSES 9-10

Sometimes we read about these men, like Paul and we take out all the emotion, all the feelings that they were going through. They were not superhuman, but they were just like you and me.

I am not saying that they were not empowered by God to do the work, but you can't take away the emotions that they went through, and we see that here with Paul.

He went through the trials, and he knew that he was not going to get out. Paul knew his time was short and he wanted Timothy to come to him quickly.

It would take maybe four to six months to travel from Ephesus to Rome, so time was of the essence.

We don't know if Timothy ever made it to Rome before Paul was martyred for his faith in Christ. But you can understand why he wanted to see Timothy one last time before he went home to be with the Lord.

And what we see in these verses are – ***FRIENDS AND FOES!***

Obviously, Timothy was a friend of Paul's, a dear friend, and as I have said often, a son in the faith as Paul led Timothy to the Lord.

And some of these others ended up being foes or enemies to Paul. Demas was a foe. But at one time he was a friend to Paul.

According to Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24 Demas was a co-laborer with Paul. And that makes it even harder for Paul as this man, Demas, worked with Paul and now he has become an enemy to Paul! He left Paul.

In fact, that word, "**departed**" speaks of utterly abandoning or leaving someone who is in a dire situation or someone who is helpless.

That was Paul. He was there in the Mamertine prison and Demas left him, departed Paul when Paul needed him!

Why did Demas leave Paul or become a foe to Paul, an enemy to Paul?

We don't have to guess because Paul tells us what happened to Demas. He said that he "**loved this present world.**"

And we don't know where Demas lived, but it could be in Thessalonica, because that is where he headed back to.

Maybe Demas got tired of ministering to Paul, bringing him things in prison and he wanted to go back to the big city and enjoy himself. That is what it looks like.

This can happen to Christians; I have seen it and maybe you have as well. They just walk away; they go back to the world.

Their mindset is, ***“I just want to be happy!”*** I think that was Demas. He just got tired of the persecution. He got tired of poverty. He got tired of this and that and he just wanted to be happy.

The problem is that the things of the world will never satisfy a person, only Jesus will.

And if you are not satisfied with the life that Jesus has given you, I will let you in on a little secret. You will never be satisfied!

Let me show you what I mean. I am sure most if not all of you have heard of the movie – ***THE WIZARD OF OZ!***

I loved that movie. Growing up, I saw myself as the scarecrow. I was really skinny back then. And then those flying monkeys, it scared me to death! It didn't stop me from watching because I was amazed, as a kid, that monkeys could fly! But it was also a fun movie, that is, until you hear the rest of the story!

We are told,

In 1939, Hollywood gave the world ***“The Wizard of Oz.”*** Since then, the movie has become a classic.

It tells the story of Dorothy, who is whisked away to the land of Oz, where she meets three friends, faces a wicked witch, and must find how to return home.

The movie is filled with colorful characters and memorable songs.

However, the production of the movie was nothing less than a nightmare.

Judy Garland, who played Dorothy, was forced to take pills to keep her weight down. She was put on a strict diet, had to wear a tight corset under her dress, and if that were not enough, she was called demeaning names and abused by the studio heads.

The original actor for the tin man, Buddy Ebsen, was poisoned by the toxic makeup he had to wear, and was in the hospital for two weeks.

The other actors who had to wear makeup experienced similar problems. They were forced to keep the makeup on all day, and were not allowed to eat because if the makeup was consumed, they would face severe illness.

Bert Lahr, who played the cowardly lion, had to wear a 90-pound suit that was made of real lion fur. He sweat profusely in it, but was not allowed to take it off until the end of each day.

Margaret Hamilton, who played the witch, caught on fire during a scene where she was to vanish in a puff of smoke. Her hands and face were severely burned. When she refused to do the stunt again, her double was also burned in the explosion.

But that's not all. The 120 actors who played the munchkins were put in a hotel, and every night there was drinking, shouting, and carousing.

These actors were overworked and underpaid, and the studio did not care for them.

On one occasion, the police were sent to the hotel in order to round up the small actors, and they used large nets to catch them and bring them to the studio.

One rumor has it that one of the munchkins hung himself, and his silhouette can be seen in the background of one of the scenes.

While "*The Wizard of Oz*" is one of the most critically acclaimed movies of all time, the background of the film is truly appalling.

The world of Oz was so bright and cheerful, and yet in reality, there was darkness, abuse, suffering, and contempt.

This is a perfect picture of the world.

The world acts like it's a bright and cheery place, but in reality, the world is filled with darkness, abuse, suffering, and contempt. The glamor of the world cannot hide its true nature.

People put on a bright demeanor and dance with joy, and yet their lives are full of misery.

- <https://bit.ly/3xzDffQ>

That does sum up the world. It looks so wonderful, so much fun but in the end, it is nothing but heartache, hardships and it never satisfies! It is not the yellow brick road, that is for sure!

Look at marriages that break up, why?

Because – ***I JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY!***

And they get a divorce and, in the end, apart from Christ, they have not found what they are looking for and they won't!

And I am sure that this was all very attractive to Demas but in the end, it did not satisfy unless he returned to Jesus!

The world drew Demas back into its clutches and the things of this world got in his way and Demas distanced himself from Paul, he did not associate himself with Paul anymore.

But the bigger picture is that the world drew Demas away from the Lord!

And I am sure you know this warning from John in I John 2:15-17 where he wrote, **“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. 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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**

In other words, you can't serve two masters. You will either serve the world or you will serve the Lord. And look at the deception of the world, how it lures you into its clutches and it will draw you away from the Lord!

We also see these other men that Paul speaks of. They were involved in ministry and couldn't come to Paul at this time. That too was hard, but Paul understood.

We see that Crescens went to Galatia. Remember that in Galatia, as we see in Paul's letter to the Galatians, they were being tempted away from the Gospel of Grace and into a Gospel that mixed Law and grace together. That tells me that Crescens must have been a trustworthy servant of the Lord if he was going there to deal with those difficult issues.

Titus we also see leave Paul and he heads to Dalmatia.

We also see Paul speak of Titus being a son in the faith and that tells me that Paul led Titus to the Lord. And he too was a trustworthy servant of the Lord! (Titus 1:4)

Now you may be thinking, ***“What in the world does this have to do with me?”***

I think there is a very important application here. Are we friends or foes to our brothers and sisters in the Lord?

Has the world pulled us away from being there for people?

Has the world pulled us away from serving people?

Has the world just pulled us away?

And I guess you can put whatever you want there, but the bottom line is this.

HAS THE WORLD PULLED YOU AWAY FROM THE LORD!

If it has, then it will also pull you away from your brothers and sisters in the Lord and instead of being there for them, you will be absent!

But a true friend is there for you. A friend is the first person who comes in when the whole world goes out. In other words, as we are told in Proverbs 17:17, “**A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.**”

Demas was not a true friend and the reason I can say that is because in Paul’s time of need, Demas left Paul!

May we be true friends, someone who loves at all times, in the good and in the bad. May we be there for people that are hurting, that are struggling to help them.

For me, I don’t understand it. You can be friends with someone for years and then, all of a sudden, they just walk away, and they don’t even want to talk with you.

I don’t get it and I don’t understand it. How do you get around what we read in Proverbs 17:17?

Remember what it says, “**A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.**”

We need to deal with these things because they are not in the Bible for other people, they are there for each of us to learn and grow in our walk with the Lord.

And, as we see here, Paul tells us of his – ***FRIENDS AND FOES!***

As we read on, and this is amazing to me as Paul is in the Mamertine prison in Rome, he is – ***STILL MINISTERING!***

VERSES 11-13

This is interesting to me that we see Luke was the only one who stood by Paul.

Why was Luke there?

Keep in mind that Luke, who was a physician, accompanied Paul on most of his journeys and now he was with Paul in Rome attending to his physical needs.

Keep in mind that Paul had some eye problems and maybe he was there helping Paul with that problem.

But how difficult that must have been for Paul, as no one was with him. Yes, some left to carry on the work, but to be alone like that, with only Luke with him. But what a dear friend Luke must have been to Paul.

And keep in mind that what is going on here was much different than Paul's first imprisonment there in Rome.

In Acts 28:30-31 we see what it was like as we are told, **“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”**

Here we see that he saw many people, he had many visitors, he was not alone.

Things have now changed and as you can see, they have changed a lot, and it is not good! He is alone except for Luke!

Like I have said, Luke was a true friend of Paul's. He is one of those men who is always around, meeting the needs, not getting much attention, but is very faithful in ministry even when things are tough!

It is hard to find men like that as Paul found out!

Then Paul speaks of Mark, who is also called John Mark. And if you remember in Acts, Mark was the one who accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey and wrote the Gospel According to Mark.

For whatever reason, Mark left Paul, and didn't finish the work. Some say that he was afraid but that is not the point. The point was that in this work, Mark didn't finish it and he left for home, leaving Paul shorthanded one man! (Acts 13)

And you can imagine, Paul was not happy with what Mark did.

When Paul started his second missionary journey, Barnabas, the uncle of Mark, wanted Mark to go with them, and Paul refused.

So they split up, not on very good terms.

Barnabas and Mark going to Cyprus and Paul and Silas went through Syria and Cilicia.

Listen to how this played out in Acts 15:36-41.

We are told, **“Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.’ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”**

Look at what we see here. Two godly men have a dispute.

That would never happen, would it?

Of course it would and it does, sadly. And please understand that this dispute is not over doctrine but over a brother in the Lord who bailed on them last time, didn't finish the work.

The thing I want you to notice is that God took a bad situation and used it for good.

What do I mean by that?

Barnabas and John Mark went to the area of Cyprus, so Paul and Silas went to Syria and Cilicia, entering Galatia from the opposite direction and thus, the start of Paul's second missionary journey primarily to Greece, covering Acts 16-18:22.

But look at what we see here. Two men, both Christians, brothers in the Lord, who allow conflict to divide them, cause division among them.

Paul, Mr. Evangelist had a passion for the lost, he wanted to see people come to Jesus, truly a soldier in this battle for souls.

And then Barnabas, Mr. Encouragement, trying to build people up, encourage them in the work of Christ, never giving up on people, wanting to see their faith grow!

Thus, as you look at these two men and what they did, what they allowed to happen, who was right and who was wrong in this confrontation?

Here is the answer you have been waiting for.

Paul was right, the Gospel message needed to go forward!

Hang on for those of you in the camp with Barnabas.

You see, Barnabas was right, encouraging, edifying believers is important!

And as much as they both were right; they both were wrong in their actions and attitudes!

Now you are probably thinking, "***They both can't be right and both be wrong. That is a cop-out!***"

Let me ask you this. Does the Bible say who was right and who was wrong in this confrontation?

No, the Bible doesn't say who was right and who was wrong, but it does show us that two godly men, both with good causes to fight for, can allow the flesh to overtake them and divide them. They let their feelings get in the way!

Again, if this was a doctrinal issue, then it would be clear cut on what is right and what is wrong. But it is not, and it is more of a matter of ministry, how you are to do it I guess, and with what people you want to do ministry with!

And as right as both were, they also were wrong, as I have said. You don't see them praying about this situation, just the argument and the division.

Barnabas could have been in submission to Paul, as he was leading this missionary journey.

And Paul could have been more sensitive to what Barnabas was saying about John Mark.

Thus, through prayer the Holy Spirit would have guided them to do the right thing!

The wonderful thing is that there was a reconciliation between Paul and John Mark as well as Paul and Barnabas. They were able to humble themselves and put away their differences for the greater cause of Christ! Yes, they did leave in anger, they parted in a bad way, but then there was a healing that took place.

What a great lesson for us to learn. Heal those relationships with your brothers and sisters in the Lord. There are things we are not going to agree on, but if it is not a doctrinal issue, why argue?

Remember grace, the grace that God has extended to you, and may you extend that grace to others as we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

And now, at the end of Paul's life, who does he want to see?

He wants to see this young man, John Mark before he is martyred for his faith!

Again, we see this healing that has taken place. The work is to bring the Gospel and thus, don't let things get in the way of doing that!

And then there is this man named Tychicus. Tychicus could have brought this letter to Timothy, we aren't sure.

In Titus 3:12 we are told of this man, **“When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.”**

It seems that this man was a fill-in pastor, giving Titus and Timothy some time off to rest and be refreshed, we don't know, but that is what it seems like.

We are also told that Paul left his cloak and books as well as parchments there in Troas.

That is interesting because it may be an indication that Paul was arrested there in Troas and then brought to Rome for his second imprisonment.

And keep in mind that the soldiers who arrested a person could take any extra garments or possessions that you had.

What's my point?

My point is this. If Paul was aware of his arrest, he may have given Carpus his cloak and books and parchments so that they would not be taken by the soldiers.

And now he wants the cloak and the books as well as the parchments brought to him there in Rome.

Why did he want these books and parchments?

Because Paul is – ***STILL MINISTERING!***

Paul knows he is going to die and yet he still wants to read the Scriptures, maybe write some more letters. Read more books.

Paul stayed a scholar to the end and wanted his books. He especially wanted the parchments, which were more than likely portions of the Old Testament.

He was a man who utilized his time to the fullest for God. What an example to us!

Also, keep in mind that he was in a dungeon and winter was coming and he wanted his coat to keep warm, Rome was not going to provide him with those things! If you froze to death, they didn't care!

I think this is an important lesson for us to learn. It is not time to stop ministering until it is time to go home and be with the Lord. When we drop out, when we stop is when we tend to get into trouble and fall apart.

May you're not sure about that. Let me give you an example. We are told,

Unamuno, the Spanish philosopher, tells about the Roman aqueduct at Segovia, in his native Spain.

It was built in 109 A. D.

For eighteen hundred years, it carried cool water from the mountains to the hot and thirsty city.

Nearly sixty generations of men drank from its flow.

Then came another generation, a recent one, who said, ***“This aqueduct is so great a marvel that it ought to be preserved for our children, as a museum piece. We shall relieve it of its centuries-long labor.”***

They did; they laid modern iron pipes. They gave the ancient bricks and mortar a reverent rest.

And the aqueduct began to fall apart.

The sun beating on the dry mortar caused it to crumble.

The bricks and stone sagged and threatened to fall.

What ages of service could not destroy idleness disintegrated.

- Resource, Sept./ Oct. 1992, p. 4

What a great lesson for us to learn from. We want to stand strong; we want to fight the good fight; we want to finish the race and we want to keep the faith. If you want to do that, then be like Paul who was, at the end of his life – ***STILL MINISTERING!***

As we read on, we will see – ***WARNINGS!***

VERSES 14-18

Who is this Alexander that did Paul much harm?

It is hard to be dogmatic about this because that was a common name.

It could very well be the man that Paul spoke of in I Timothy 1:19-20 is this man. We are told, **“having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”**

And Paul tells us that Alexander did him much harm and the idea here is that this man had ***“informed many things against me.”***

It sounds like he was an informant for the Roman government against Paul.

Barclay put it like this, *“Informers were one of the great curses of Rome at this time. And it may well be that Alexander was a renegade Christian, who went to the magistrates with false information against Paul, seeking to ruin him in the most dishonorable way.”*

Make no mistake about it, this man was trouble!

He claimed to be a Christian and he turned out to be an informant who not only turned Paul in but brought the accusations against him.

Thus, Paul is warning Timothy not to trust him no matter how nice he may seem, he is dangerous and for Timothy, that was important for it seems like this man lived in Ephesus.

Now I don't believe he was saved because he is going to be repaid according to his works, judgment was coming upon this man, as it is for unbelievers.

In Revelation 20:11-15 we are told of this coming judgment known as the Great White Throne judgment, and again, this is for those who are not saved.

We are told, **“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

That is for unbelievers, the degree of punishment in the Lake of Fire. They are cast there for their unbelief in Jesus and their punishment is according to their deeds!

This is not for believers!

And then we are told these very sad words by Paul. He wrote, “**At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. . .**”

What is Paul speaking of here?

I believe Paul is speaking of his first hearing, a preliminary hearing in Rome, not his first Roman imprisonment.

And all those who said they were his friends were absent, they distanced themselves from Paul because of fear or whatever!

But this man, Alexander, I believe was there making accusations, bringing charges against Paul – ***HE DID PAUL MUCH HARM!***

And let’s face it, at this time Nero was a nut job, medically speaking. I don’t want to get too technical here, but I think nut job gives you the picture.

You see, I believe he rejected Jesus after he heard Paul share Christ with him during Paul’s first imprisonment.

He then let Paul go for a time but then Paul is rearrested and brought to Rome. And Nero is persecuting Christians, putting them to death, burned down part of Rome and thus, you can understand why Christians were afraid to be associated with Paul!

Think about that. You poured your life into these people. You built them up in the faith. And then there was no one at the trial who would stick up for you.

That must have made Paul angry! It must have made Paul mad!

No, for Paul said, “**. . . May it not be charged against them.**” II Timothy 4:16.

How could Paul say that?

Because the Lord was with him and all the forgiveness that the Lord had given to Paul, he was now giving to others.

What a great lesson for us to learn!

I am sure we have all experienced that in our lives. Maybe not to the extent that Paul did, but we have poured our lives into people and then all of a sudden, they turn against us, and they don't want anything to do with us.

And we may feel alone, like there is no one there for us but we need to remember that the Lord is with us, and He will never leave us or forsake us! Paul understood that and as painful as this situation was, the comfort of knowing that the Lord was with him helped him tremendously!

Listen to what Paul said. Yes, everyone forsook Paul, **“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. . .”** II Timothy 4:17.

With all that Paul was going through, what was his passion besides the Lord?

It was bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost, to the Gentiles. Again, Paul is – ***STILL MINISTERING*** as we have seen in the previous verses.

And make no mistake about it. It was hard to be alone and yet Paul realized he was never really alone; the Lord was with him.

That is a great perspective to have.

Now wait a minute. How can Paul say, **“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!”** II Timothy 4:18.

Again, how can Paul say that when he knew his life was coming to an end?

Listen to this perspective and then I will expound on this.

William MacDonald put it like this, *“When the apostle said the Lord would deliver him from every evil work, he did not imply that he would be indefinitely delivered from execution. He knew that the time of his death was drawing near (v. 6). What then did he mean? Doubtless he meant that the Lord would save him from doing anything that would be a blot on the closing days of his testimony. The Lord would deliver him from recanting, from denying His name, from cowardice, or from any form of moral breakdown.”*

You see, he saw how the Lord delivered him from dangerous situations before and even in death the Lord would deliver him.

With that perspective, you can't lose!

And as Paul is in heaven, it is the Lord who receives the glory for it is Jesus who enabled Paul to be received up into heaven by His sacrificial work on the cross of Calvary, paying in full his debt (Paul's) and ours, casting all our sins as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

But it is easy to lose focus. Think about how we strive and work for so many material things in this life. We have a mentality that says, *“He who dies with the most toys wins!”*

And yet, Paul had absolutely nothing, not even a coat to keep him warm, no worldly possessions and yet, he would not trade his relationship with the Lord for anything this world has to offer because it is temporary and what the Lord has for him and us, is eternal.

It is as David said in Psalm 17:15, **“As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”**

That is a proper perspective to have!

One more point here and that is in II Timothy 4:17 when Paul says, **“... And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”** What is that about?

I don't think he was speaking of a physical lion here but the Devil himself as Peter warns us. Remember what Peter said in I Peter 5:8-9, "**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.**"

In other words, "*Lord, keep me strong in you. Protect me from the Devil who is trying to destroy my witness and let me finish this race of faith strong so others may enter into the Kingdom of God!*"

Be on guard, listen to the – **WARNINGS!**

And as we finish up, we will see Paul's – **FAREWELL!**

VERSES 19-22

Paul is tying up loose ends here and saying his goodbyes to those he loved dearly.

He starts out with a couple, Prisca or Priscilla, and her husband Aquila. And it is this couple that Paul met in Corinth on his second missionary journey.

This couple had fled Rome when Claudius expelled all Jews. (Acts 18)

As Paul went to Ephesus this couple came with him and remained in Ephesus for a time after Paul left. And they were strong in the faith.

How do I know that?

Let me show you what I mean.

There in Ephesus this couple met a Jew named Apollos. He was born in Alexandria and he was very eloquent and powerful in teaching from the Scriptures. He told people about the Lord, but he did not hear about grace as he knew only of the baptism of John.

And listen to how Aquila and Priscilla handled this in Acts 18:25-28, **“This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.”**

I like that. They took him aside, not in front of everyone, and told him about grace and he boldly went forward sharing Jesus with people and showing the Jews that Jesus is the way to the Father!

And in Romans 16:3-4 Paul tells us that this couple were back in Rome and Paul says that they risked their life for him in a very difficult situation. We are not told what that was all about.

This truly is a godly couple!

Then Paul speaks of Onesiphorus. This man was a friend of Paul who brought Paul refreshment while he was in prison. He was not ashamed or afraid of what happened to Paul but risked his own life to minister to this man. And he sought Paul out very zealously. What a friend this man was to Paul.

We read of this man in II Timothy 1:16-18 where we are told, **“The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.”**

One author and pastor had this to say about this man. *“Onesiphorus stands as a tremendous example; when all others had forsaken Paul, he loved Paul and ministered to him. Whom would God have you be an Onesiphorus to? Whom would God have you diligently seek out, not be ashamed of, and refresh? Is there not one ‘fringe’ person you know that others have forgotten about, who has no status or reward to give you back, that you can reach out and love in the name of Jesus? Is there not one person on the outside whom you can draw into your circle of friends, and refresh them in the name of the Lord?”*

Think about this. Paul is on death row and yet he is still thinking of others, he is others-centered, not self-centered.

And for those who believe God heals all physically, Paul left Trophimus in Miletus because he was sick. This was not because of a lack of faith; he was physically sick!

These last few names are Latin names and thus, they are probably from Italy.

I wonder where the Church of Rome was when Paul first appeared before the court.

They let fear get in the way of friendship, the fear of man was a snare to them and when Paul needed them the most, they were not there!

Paul wants Timothy to come before winter and according to verse 13, he was to bring Paul’s coat, probably because it was going to get cold in that dungeon as winter approached!

As we come to II Timothy 4:22 we see the last words that were penned by Paul, this great man of God and what is the focus?

It is upon Jesus and God's Grace that He has bestowed upon us.

You see, we are saved by Grace through faith in Christ. We are sustained by Grace. And one day we will be received up into glory by the Grace of God.

What a great way to end a letter, a ministry and a life!

From history we are told that Paul was beheaded a short time after he wrote this letter to Timothy outside Rome's Ostian Gate at a place called Three Fountains.

Yes, his physical life on this earth was over but the fragrance of Jesus he left behind is still around with us!

Paul put it this way in II Corinthians 2:14-17 regarding what we are to leave behind, **“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”**

What kind of fragrance are you leaving behind?

Paul was passing on the mantle of ministry to Timothy, his passion for the Lord.

The question is, ***“Do we have that same passion for the Lord and are we willing to pass it on?”***

Paul was and may we learn those lessons so we too may shine for Jesus in a world that is in darkness!

Timothy took up the mantle and served the Lord as Paul had admonished him to.

May the fragrance of Jesus flow from our lives and touch the lives of others.

Let me close our study as Paul closed out his letter to Timothy and his life, “**The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.**” II Timothy 4:22.