

II TIMOTHY 4:9-22

REVIEW...

- The outline of II Timothy...
 - o Chapter 1-2 - The characteristics of the faithful servant
 - o Chapter 3 – Warnings to the faithful servant – Living in the Last Days
 - Paul wrote this final letter he was in prison – on death row – because of preaching the Gospel!
 - And anyone who lives a Godly life – will likewise suffer persecution for it!
 - Because we are living in the Last Days – and men are getting worse and worse!
 - o Therefore - it is important that we are in the Word of God...
 - The Bible is the God breathed - Holy Spirit inspired - Word of God!
 - The Word shows us the truth / corrects our lives / gives us instruction for righteousness!
 - o Chapter 4 – Paul gave his final instructions to Timothy – his last words...
 - PREACH the WORD – because it is from God / because Jesus is with us...
 - Because God will judge the Living and the Dead / because Jesus is coming back...
 - And because the world does NOT want to hear it – they want tickling ears!

THE FINAL WORDS OF PAUL... (3 POINTS)

- 1ST – COME TO ROME... vs. 9-13
 - o 1st – Be DILIGENT to come quickly... vs. 9
 - DILIGENT (*imperative*) – *spoudazō* – to exert effort / to act quickly / to work hard...
 - As believers God calls us to be DILIGENT / work hard in a number of areas...
 - **Galatians 2:10** – we are to be DILIGENT to take care of the POOR...
 - **Ephesians 4:3** - we are to be DILIGENT about keeping unity and PEACE in the church...
 - **II Timothy 2:15** – we are to be DILIGENT to STUDY the Word of God!
 - But Paul wanted Timothy to be DILIGENT / work hard in his effort to come to Rome!
 - We do not know for sure if Timothy ever did get to visit Paul before his death...
 - Although it is suggested in **Hebrews 13:23** – Timothy did visit Paul in prison!
 - o 2nd – Instructions regarding people... vs. 10-12
 - Paul is going to give Timothy two reasons why it is important for him to come to Rome ...
 - First to receive instructions about SIX people...
 - Paul wanted to pass on both warnings and instructions regarding others in the ministry!
 - 1 - Demas – had worked with Paul in ministry – **Philemon 1:24 / Colossians 4:14**
 - But something went wrong – he ended up FORSAKING Paul / and the ministry!
 - FORSAKEN – to totally abandon – to completely walk away from...
 - What caused Demas to FORAKE Paul and Ministry – the LOVE of this present age...
 - LOVE – *agape* – he was far more concerned about this life – than eternal life!
 - The assumption is - he did like the persecution that came from living for Jesus...
 - Paul had been thrown in prison – and perhaps Demas thought he was next...
 - The result was he departed (*passive*) and went to Thessalonica (*perhaps fleeing persecution*)
 - **The Gospel is NOT a message about an easy life – it is about finding eternal life...**
 - **If we chose to follow Jesus because we thought it would make life EASIER...**
 - **We will be quite disillusioned – because Jesus promises us TRIBULATIONS – John 16:33**
 - **Following Jesus is about losing our life – so that we can find REAL life in Him!**
 - **Matthew 16:25** – “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

- 2 - Crescens – who Paul sent to the region of Galatia (*1st missionary journey*) ... vs. 10
 - Only mentioned here in the NT – although there is a church tradition concerning him...
 - He was supposedly one of the 70 disciples sent out by Jesus in - **Luke 10**
- 3 - Titus – who Paul sent to Dalmatia... vs. 10
 - Titus is mentioned 13 times in the NT (*9 times in the book of II Corinthians*) ...
 - He was not a Jew – he was a Gentile – most likely from the city of Antioch in Syria...
 - We do not know where or when he met Paul – or how he got saved...
 - But he traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys - **II Corinthians 7:6**
 - Paul sent him to Dalmatia – in modern day Croatia on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea...
 - We are not sure why Paul sent Titus there – it is only mentioned here...
 - Titus was certainly one of the most trusted co-workers of the Apostle!
- 4 - Tychicus – was sent to Ephesus... vs. 12
 - Tychicus was of the province of Asia - where Ephesus was the capital - **Acts 20:4**
 - He carried the letter to the Colossians - **Colossians 4:7**
 - It would seem he was to deliver this second epistle to Timothy - **II Timothy 4:12**
 - Paul was in prison – no doubt soon to be executed for his faith in Jesus...
 - Yet Paul was sending these Godly men – Crescens / Titus / Tychicus – to encourage others!
 - Not that Paul was NOT lonely – he felt the sting of the departure of Demas...
 - And no doubt – missed the encouragement of his brothers in the faith!
 - But Paul was not focused on himself – his priority was the Gospel!
 - **We tend to think that life revolved around us – we only think about our needs...**
 - **When we are self-focused it is misery – only seeing our problems / troubles...**
 - **And when we focus on our problems – it is VERY EASY to get overwhelmed...**
 - **But when we minister to others our perspective changes - we see things in a new light!**
 - We might think times are hard because we got sick – and cannot work...
 - Until we see our neighbor who lost of loved one – whom they will never see again!
- 5 - Luke – was the only person who stayed behind with Paul in Rome... vs. 11
 - Luke who was a physician - **Colossians 4:14**
 - Luke who is the only non-Jewish author in the NT – wrote **Luke / Acts**
 - Luke who was a traveling companion of Paul on his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys...
 - Only Luke stayed by Paul right to the VERY end!
 - **I have seen believers put too much faith in a pastor / or mentor...**
 - **And when the person they are looking to makes a mistake – they are stumbled...**
 - **Because when we put our trust in a person – we are setting ourselves up for a fall!**
 - **We have a tendency to learn to depend on others rather than on God...**
 - **Therefore the Lord SHIFTS the people we have in our lives...**
 - **Because the one constant in our life – should only be Jesus Christ!**
 - **That being said – sometimes they Lord gives us a LUKE...**
 - **A true friend who sticks by our side through the good and the bad – to the VERY end!**
- 6 - Mark – Paul wanted Timothy to bring (*imperative*) him to Rome... vs. 11
 - This is the same Mark who deserted Paul on the FIRST missionary Journey...
 - We are not told why Mark left - perhaps he got sick...
 - Or he may have gotten homesick – he was likely a young man at that point!
 - Whatever the reason – he abandoned the work – and quit the ministry!
 - **Just because we fail does not mean that we are disqualified for ministry**
 - **Though we fail – we only need to get back up and step out to serve again!**
 - **Proverbs 24:16 – “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again.”**
 - Mark leaving eventually dove Paul and Barnabus apart...

- o **Acts 15:36-38** – Paul and Barnabus wanted to go on the SECOND missionary trip...
- o Barnabus wanted to take his cousin Mark – but Paul refused to take him...
- o Because Mark had proven himself unfaithful / undependable...
- o So Barnabus took Mark / and Paul took Silas and they went separate ways!
- Yet now Paul has a change of heart – he realized Mark was USEFUL for the ministry...
 - o Mark grew up and matured – and Paul saw the need to give a SECOND chance...
 - o This is the same Mark who wrote the Gospel according to Mark!
 - o **We all mess up – make mistakes – fortunately God does not give up on us!**
 - o **It is through those mistakes we learn and grow in our faith...**
 - o **And God gives us – like Mark – SECOND chances to be used by the Lord!**
- o 3rd – Things Paul wanted Timothy to bring... vs. 13
 - The second reason why Paul wanted Timothy to diligently come to Rome...
 - Paul wanted Timothy to bring (*imperative*) the coat he left in Troas...
 - Paul was in a damp / cold / dungeon – and winter was coming – **II Timothy 4:21**
 - So very practically Paul wanted Timothy to bring a coat to keep him warm!
 - Paul also wanted Timothy to bring his books and parchments...
 - The books likely refer to the letters that Paul had written to the churches!
 - The parchments likely refer to copies of the Bible Paul used to study!
 - **If we were locked up in prison – on death row – what would we ask for...**
 - **Whatever you requested – it would be the most important thing to you!**
 - **For Paul the most important thing in this world – was the Word of God!**
- 2ND – **BE CAREFUL... vs. 14-18**
 - o 1st – Alexander the coppersmith – who did a lot of harm to Paul... vs. 14-15
 - This may be the same Alexander the Jew – who stood up in the riot - **Acts 19:33-34**
 - He was a coppersmith who likely worked with the idol makers of Ephesus...
 - Paul hoped (*optative*) the Lord would repay him according to his works!
 - **Anyone who made idols of the goddess Dianna in Ephesus – was VERY wealthy...**
 - **The Temple of Artimus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world...**
 - **HUGE crowds would come there every year to see the Temple – worship Dianna...**
 - **And everyone wanted a souvenir – pasalubong – so they sold LOTS of little idols!**
 - Timothy needed to BEWARE (*imperative*) of him...
 - Because Alexander GREATLY resisted (*perfect*) the word of the Lord!
 - As the new pastor of Ephesus Timothy would do doubt run into Alexander!
 - And the message of the Gospel was especially offensive to idol makers like him!
 - **Acts 19:26-27** – “Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands... this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute.”
 - In 401 AD the Temple of Dianna was torn down by St John Chrysostom...
 - The only thing that still exists today is one solitary column - broken at the top!
 - Paul and Timothy did not have to do anything to the cult and temple of Dianna...
 - The Gospel was more than enough to destroy the false worship temple there!
 - **Jeremiah 17:1** – “[Some] people act as though their evil ways are laws to be obeyed, inscribed with a diamond point on their stony hearts...”
 - **We might tend to think nothing we do will ever break the superstitions around us...**
 - **But the Gospel has the power to break up even the hardest ground...**
 - **And when the Word meets rock – it becomes a sledgehammer to shatter hardened sin!**
 - **Jeremiah 23:29** – “My word... like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces...”
 - o 2nd – At the first defence (*apologia*) of Paul – no one stood by him... vs. 16
 - Perhaps in the fear of sharing the fate of Paul – they all FORSOOK him...

- But Paul did not hold it against them – instead he asked God not to charge them!
- This is an interesting statement – because it was NOT about what people DID to Paul...
- It was about what they did NOT do for Paul – they did NOT support him in his hour of need!
- We need to be careful of our EXPECTATIONS...
 - On the one hand we often EXPECT something from someone – but NEVER tell them...
 - It is not fair to ASSUME that someone knows what we are thinking...
 - If we have not shared EXPECTATIONS – do not be surprised if someone does not meet them!
- But even if we have shared our EXPECTATIONS...
 - That is what we WANT someone else to do – that does not mean they HAVE to...
 - Our ideas are NOT the commands of God – they are not Biblical mandates...
 - We are not called to tell others what to do – we point them to Jesus who will LEAD them!
- If we are hurt by what someone did NOT do...
 - When we are hurt - and do NOT forgive - it plants a seed in our heart...
 - It can quickly grow into bitterness - we become consumed with what they did to us!
 - Its roots can grow down deep - poisoning and hardening - separating us from God...
 - It makes us sour and bitter - and eventually brings spiritual death...
 - With un-forgiveness in our hearts - God does not hear our prayers - **Mark 11:25**
- o 3rd – The Lord stood with and strengthened... vs. 17-18
 - STRENGTHENED – from the root word *dynamis* – to receive POWER...
 - Even though people will fail us – people will abandon us – God NEVER will!
 - God NEVER left Paul – so the Gospel could be preached by Paul for all Gentiles to hear!
 - **Colossians 1:24** – “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His... church.”
 - Not that there was anything lacking in the sacrifice of Jesus – the cross...
 - When the work was done Jesus said – It is finished – nothing needed to be added!
 - But we were not there to see the cross – we did not see Jesus die...
 - Paul was allowed to suffer so others could see Jesus in him!
 - It is easy to worship Jesus when everything is going well – no one notices...
 - But when we get sick / bad things happen – just like they do to everyone else...
 - And rather than complaining about life – we are strong by the POWER of God ...
 - Then people stand up and take notice – through our suffering they see Jesus in us!
 - Paul was even delivered out of the mouth of the lion...
 - Some believe Paul is talking about a real lion – perhaps in the Coliseum in Rome...
 - o But more likely Paul is talking about being delivered from THE lion – satan...
 - o Which is why Paul goes on to say – God will deliver me from EVERY evil work...
 - o And will preserve (save) me for His Heavenly Kingdom – to Him be Glory forever!
 - We need to know – when we stand up for Jesus – we are a target!
 - o **Luke 22:31** - “Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat.”
 - o Make no mistake – if we stand up for Jesus – satan knows who we are...
 - o And he will come test us - try us - to see what we are made of...
 - o He wants to try and discourage – get us to walk away from serving Jesus!
 - We need to be careful - satan is like a lion...
 - o **I Peter 5:8** - “Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.”
 - o Satan can make noise - but he is like a lion without teeth - bark worse than bite!
 - o Yet Satan is smart - he knows he cannot directly come against us...
 - o Instead he tries to get us to compromise our walk with the Lord...
 - o If satan can trip us with sin - can get us to walk away from the protection of God!

● **3RD – GREET THE SAINTS... vs. 19-22**

○ 1st – Prisca (*Priscilla*) and Aquila... vs. 19

- Prisca and Aquila were the couple Paul met on his SECOND missions trip...
- They ministered alongside Paul in the city of Corinth and Ephesus...
- **Romans 16:3-4** – “Priscilla and Aquila... risked their lives for me.”

○ 2nd – The household of Onesiphorus... vs. 19

- Onesiphorus was also from Ephesus – **II Timothy 1:16**
- He had ministered to Paul MANY times while he was in Ephesus...
- But when Paul was arrested the second time...
- He left Ephesus and traveled 1000km – likely taking him months to get to Rome...
- And when he arrived - he searched zealously till he found Paul...
- In other words it was no accident – he WANTED to encourage Paul!

○ 3rd – Erastus stayed in Corinth... vs. 20

- Erastus was powerful politician – treasurer of the city of Corinth – **Roman 16:23**
- He had also traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys – **Acts 19:22**

○ 4th – Trophimus who Paul left sick in Miletus...

- One of the 7 men who helped bring the gift from the Gentile church to Jerusalem - **Acts 20:4**
- MILETUS was an Island in the 80km south of Ephesus (*now part of mainland Turkey*) ...
- Paul – who healed on many occasions / brought back the dead - did not heal Trophimus!
- No one person has the gift of healing anytime they desire...
- If they did there would be no reason for hospitals - the HEALER could do it all!
- The GIFT of healing is not about the person who is praying – it is the person receiving...
- If someone is sick – and God heals them – he gave the sick person the GIFT of healing!
- So how do you know if someone has been given the GIFT - step out to find out...
- Pray for someone - God might give them the GIFT of healing - and touch them!

○ 5th – Eubulus / Pudens / Linus / and Claudia (*woman*) ... vs. 21

- Be DILLIGENT (*imperative*) to come before winter...
- All three of these men and one woman are only mentioned here in the Bible...
- Linus is known though church history as the first bishop of Rome after the Apostles...
- We know next to nothing about the three people that close up this final letter.
- Except to say - their names made in into the Word of God!
- Because of their faith - their love for Jesus - their names were recorded in the Bible!
- Many people try to leave their MARK – their name on memorials to be remembered
- But memorials crumble – names fade away – things are forgotten...
- Those Paul greeted here had their names written here for us to read 2000 years later!
- The things we do for ourselves – the glory of men – are all forgotten...
- It is the things we do for the Lord that last forever – **Matthew 6:20**

○ 6th – Paul closes up – with grace... vs. 22

- The final words of the Apostle Paul – in his final letter in the Bible...
- The Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit – Grace by with you – Amen!
- Because only when the Grace of God gets a hold of our life – will we have a changed heart!
- Because being good does not make us right - being right with God makes us good!
- Because the Grace of God is the key to living our lives for God!