II Timothy 4:9-22

Review…

- The outline of II Timothy…
  - Chapter 1-2 - The characteristics of the faithful servant
  - 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!
  - 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!
  - 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**
  - 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!
  - 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 theses 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…

- **Acts 15:36-38** – Paul and Barnabus wanted to go on the SECOND missionary trip…
- Barnabus wanted to take his cousin Mark – but Paul refused to take him…
- Because Mark had proven himself unfaithful / undependable…
- 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…
- Mark grew up and matured – and Paul saw the need to give a SECOND chance…
- This is the same Mark who wrote the Gospel according to Mark!
- We all mess up – make mistakes – fortunately God does not give up on us!
- It is through those mistakes we learn and grow in our faith…
- And God gives us – like Mark – SECOND chances to be used by the Lord!

- 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**
  - 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 GREALTLY 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…"
  - 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…
  - But more likely Paul is talking about being delivered from THE lion – satan…
  - Which is why Paul goes on to say – God will deliver me from EVERY evil work…
  - 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!
  - **Luke 22:31** - "Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat."
  - Make no mistake – if we stand up for Jesus – satan knows who we are…
  - And he will come test us - try us - to see what we are made of...
  - He wants to try and discourage – get us to walk away from serving Jesus!
- We need to be careful - satan is like a lion...
  - **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."
  - Satan can make noise - but he is like a lion without teeth - bark worse than bite!
  - Yet Satan is smart - he knows he cannot directly come against us...
  - Instead he tries to get us to compromise our walk with the Lord...
  - 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!