

Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

Some Help Some Don't

Personal Matters

II Timothy 4:9-22

Lesson Eleven

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Paul's Last Words

Some Help, Some Don't—II Timothy 4:9-22

The last few verses of Second Timothy contain an urgent message and some personal references to enemies, friends and fellow missionaries. Read II Timothy 4:9-15.

Paul told Timothy that he needed some help. We aren't exactly sure what Paul needed from Timothy other than companionship and maybe a coat to deal with the cold of his prison cell. He has only Luke for company. Paul lists Demas (Dee'-mus) as a deserter, as well as Crescens (Cres'-suns), Titus and Tychicus (Ti'-kick-us) as moving on to other mission work.

He wanted Timothy to bring Mark with him. Mark (John Mark) had deserted Barnabas and Paul near the beginning of their first missionary journey, and had been the cause of their break-up at the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey. Something happened between that time and this letter. Paul now considered Mark to be useful in his ministry. Some even think that Paul expected Mark to be his "right-hand-man." Mark had been with Paul, who was imprisoned in Rome, when he wrote to the church at Colossae. He told the Colossians that they had received instructions about Mark and that they were to welcome him if and when he came to them. It was probably about this time that Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark. From this experience, we see clearly that our past does not determine our ability to be used of God in our future.

In a very practical matter, Paul asked Timothy to stop by Troas, which was a port city through which Timothy would need to travel, and pick up a coat (something like a poncho) that he had left with a man named Carpus. He was also probably the keeper of Paul's library of Old Testament scrolls and parchments. The parchments, many believe, were Paul's notes used in teaching, writing and probably held even more personal things such as the names of people in the churches and some of Paul's memories.

Then Paul wrote about a man who didn't help his ministry, even hurt him. He was Alexander. We aren't sure who this man was. He could have been the one who was pushed forward by the Jews in Ephesus as a spokesperson, but never got to speak. (Acts 19:33) He could have been the Alexander mentioned in I Timothy 1:20, who Paul condemned for rejecting the faith. He might have been someone who turned Paul in to the authorities before his final imprisonment. That could have happened in Troas because Paul had to leave his winter coat and reference materials there...like he left in a hurry. If that is the case, and Timothy had to go through Troas, Paul was warning him to stay away from Alexander.

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Paul, then referred to the situation in his "first defense." Many believe that he was talking about a hearing, either at the end of his first imprisonment in Rome, or at the beginning of his second. Either way, he felt deserted. We see here a second reference to those who didn't help. In this case, they are not named. When you go to court, and no one stands in your behalf, you can feel pretty lonely. Read II Timothy 4:16-22

But Paul, like Jesus, prayed that the people responsible would not be punished for their desertion. Paul felt the presence of the Lord with him through all the difficult times. The Lord gave him strength to give a Christian testimony and to make another appeal to the Gentiles. Paul felt very comfortable with God's presence, and he was certain that God would bring him through whatever he had to face.

Remember that Jesus prayed on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) Later He said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46) Paul was committed to leaving his fate in God's hands, just as Jesus was, and he lifted up his praise, "To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (verse 18)

Though Paul may have been almost alone in Rome, he was certainly not friendless. He sent greetings through Timothy to Priscilla and Aquila, who were tentmakers, exiles from Rome, and Paul's helpers. Paul met them first in Corinth, now they were in Ephesus. Paul said greet the household of Onesiphorus (O-ness-i-fore'-us). It is possible that Onesiphorus had already died as a martyr. Paul sent greetings to Erastus who was, according to Romans 16:23, the director of public works in Corinth. He sent greetings to Trophimus (Tro'-fi-mus) who had some kind of disease and was in Miletus.

Then, in another practical request, he asked Timothy to hurry (verse nine) and get to Rome before winter. Travel during the winter months was not easy, if not impossible.

Finally, he sent Timothy greetings from Christians in Rome: Eubulus, (U'-bu-lus) Prudens, (Pru'-dins) Linus, Claudia and others. He ends, as usual, with "grace."

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Scripture Memory: "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly Kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen." II Timothy 4:18

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to live a Godly life even if it is difficult.

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Student Worksheet

Some Help, Some Don't—II Timothy 4:9-22

- >Who deserted Paul?

- >Who moved on to do other missionary work?

- >Whose life helps us see that our past does not determine our ability to be used of God in our future?

- >What did Paul ask Timothy to pick up in Troas and bring to him?

- >Paul felt very _____ with God's presence, and he was certain that God would _____ him through whatever he had to _____.
- >Paul was committed to leaving his fate in God's _____, just as Jesus was, and he lifted up his _____, "To Him be _____ for ever and ever. Amen."
- >He sends Timothy greetings, probably from Christians in Rome: _____, _____, _____, _____ and others. He ends, as usual, with "_____."

Scripture Memory: "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly Kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen." II Timothy 4:18

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.