

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4 – “Preach the Word; Paul’s Valedictory; The Abandoned Apostle; The Lord is Faithful; Come Before Winter; Farewell!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Outline of 2 Timothy

Key Themes

- I. suffering is part of the Christian experience (1:8, 12; 2:3, 9; 3:11–12; 4:5, 14–18).
- II. The Christian response to suffering is steady faith by God’s power (1:8; 2:1, 11–13; 4:1–8).
- III. The gospel is the basis for the Christian’s endurance (1:9–11; 2:8–10).
- IV. The Scriptures have power to save and to preserve (2:15; 3:15–17; 4:1–2).
- V. True believers will continue in the faith. Failure to do so proves one is not truly converted (2:11–13, 19; 3:14; 4:7, 10).
- VI. False teaching is deadly and must be dealt with firmly (2:16–18, 23–26; 3:1–9; 4:3–5).

2 Timothy – Paul’s Swan Song – His Last Will and Testament – Filled with Emotion – Written from a cold, dark dungeon, awaiting his execution.

BE REMINDED!

2Pe 1:10- 15 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; [11] for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [12] For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. [13] Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, [14] knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. [15] Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

2Ti 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, [25] in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, [26] and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will

Preach the Word

2Ti 4:1-8 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: [2] Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; [4] and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. [5] But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. [6] For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [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.

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY – Hankey/Fischer Londonderry Choir

*1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true
satisfies my longings as nothing else can do*

*CHORUS: I love to tell the story 'Twill be my theme in glory.
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love*

*2. I love to tell the story; More wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all my golden dreams,
I love to tell the story, It did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. CHORUS*

*3. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. CHORUS*

*4. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best.
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. CHORUS*

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Preach the Word
2Ti 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
2Ti 4:4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

v. 1 In light of all these things, in *Chapter 3:14-17*, Paul gives the charge (this is the second time) to Timothy to preach the Word!!! He lays down as a foundation to his charge. I charge you: **1-- who watches you in the light of our ministries (before God and the Lord Jesus Christ)**. Paul is reminding Timothy of the most important member of the congregation of the church he is ministering to. The most important person that attends every single service that he oversees. That God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, are a constant member of his congregation, a constant witness to his ministry as a pastor. Remember Paul is very near death, so now as he writes there is tremendous sobriety associated with it. Church leaders are falling away, many of them becoming casualties of their own flesh, false teaching. Paul doesn’t want Timothy to fall and become unfaithful to his calling. **Secondly, he is going to be standing one day before those two and They are going to judge his faithfulness to his ministry**, not judged related to his salvation, but there is a Bema seat – a rewards and we’ll give an account for our faithfulness and to be rewarded accordingly, as it relates to heaven. He reminds Timothy, there is a day coming when your faithfulness to your ministry is going to be judged, not by man, but by God Almighty Himself!

v. 2 Now the charge “You *preach the word*”! It’s the **only thing that makes us wise for salvation; makes them mature as Christians; and then equips them to be fruitful in their service to the Lord! Preach (herald) the Word!** Not just from the Word, but to preach all of the Word, from Genesis to Revelation! That’s what we’re to do! ***Be ready in season and out of season*** - When it’s “**in fashion**” and when it’s “**out of fashion**”! Anytime day or night, whenever the opportunity, declare what the Word has to say! ***Convince*** (element of correction to it) – of the capacities of the minister to correct those who are wrong in their thinking, having erroneous views of God or life! ***rebuke***, is for those **who are living comfortably in sin!** There is a need of rebuke, which is stronger than “convince” where you try to come along aside and try to correct! Rebuke is stronger! There is **no argument. Sin is wrong and there is no room for argument** or discussion. At times the pastor is forced to step in and rebuke the situation, which is most difficult thing to do! ***exhort***, Encourage the people to live for the Lord, what God might do with a life that totally surrendered to Him – let’s keep going! Let’s keep moving! Always stretching forward! ***with all longsuffering***.- Paul is telling Timothy to do this with all **longsuffering, patience and teaching**, because **that’s so required, so needed**. It’s going to require patience. ***Philip - John 14:9!*** Growth in patience is so needed as believers become more mature. ***and teaching*** – The word of God is to be the standard of all of our teaching!

vs. 3-4 ***For the time will come when they will not endure*** (put up with) ***sound(health giving) doctrine***. Being faithful to this charge may not make you popular or to have a large church. Teaching the word at times, a longer for the hunger of the word, may result in a small church. Addressing now problems within the church, where the correct teaching will not be appreciated, but we’re to be careful to be faithful! Remember the Father and the Son are in the congregation! ***but according to their own desires*** – people bring their own desires into the church. Carefully following what the Word of God says will take care of this. “We can’t elevate man’s desires over that which the Lord desires! ***because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; v.4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*** Here we see the warning that a time will come when the people won’t care what the Word of Gods says. They insist on elevating their desires to the point that they won’t accept the teaching of the God’s Word but will respond only to fables, which don’t feed the spirit, but only satisfy the flesh and their itchy ears! They will turn their ears from the truth. They won’t put up with convincing, rebuking and exhorting, but will follow false teachers who do make them feel good in their flesh. Timothy, expect that there will always be a plentiful supply of false teachers who will give them that. Even of all that is around you, you are to be faithful to what God has called you to do. If anyone leaves the truth of the word of God, all there that is left are fables and lies.

v. 1 **Remember and consider that Timothy and for us!! Staying faithful, gives us a boost! Build in the fear of the Lord - a deep, deep, reverence. There needs to be a fear of God and a respect of God in all we do. We’re under authority and do what He says!!!**

v. 2 Now the charge “You *preach the word*”! It’s the **only things that makes us wise for salvation; makes them mature as Christians; and then equips them to be fruitful in their service to the Lord! Preach (herald) the Word! Note this applies to each of us!**

vs. 3-4 What type of people are we? Those who have “***itching ears***” and want to be entertained as though they were going to a theatre or those who long for the truth of the Word of God?

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INTERPRETATION

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2Ti 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

v. 5 But you be watchful in all thing Be aware of this stuff and stay the course! *endure afflictions* – affliction is not a reason to compromise or be unfaithful! *do the work of an evangelist*, Preach the Word! Do the work of an evangelist. This is a great exhortation. Even if we aren’t personally gifted with the gift of evangelism, we all can do the work of an evangelist. We can show people the love of the Lord and bring them to those who are skilled in evangelism. *fulfill your ministry*. Timothy fulfill your ministry! Mine is finished. I’ve finished my course! I am ready to be offered! Don’t let the prevalence of the false teachers or let the size of the crowds influence your being faithful to preaching the word. When you see the crowds growing and flocking to those false teachers because they are preaching, not the word of God, but things that itchy ears want to hear, don’t let that influence you to stop the fulfilling of your ministry! Don’t do it Timothy! You stay faithful!

v. 6 For I am (emphatic - as for me) *already being poured out as a drink offering*, Paul is giving us his last statements, remarkable! He says I’m ready to be offered! He knows that soon, his head will come off, which is the honor of a convicted Roman citizen. He’s facing it! People might say, I’m ready. I just so beat up, so worn out – maybe fighting cancer for an extended time. I’m ready. One reason is why any believer should be ready that we’re washed in the blood of Jesus. We’re ready because of what He had done on the cross! We are ready to stand before a holy God because we’ve been forgiven and cleansed through the blood of Jesus Christ! That should be the reason for all believers! A reason for not saying I’m ready, is that my course is not finished. I’m not done yet! I just sense in my spirit that God has some things to do and basically, we’re indestructible until we’ve finished our course! I want to go see the Lord, but I have that sense that I’m still not finished. Another reason someone might say they’re not ready, and this is not what you don’t want to do and that is because I’m backslidden! I’m compromised! I’m living in sexual sin! Lord, don’t come now! *and the time of my departure* (the striking of a tent; the raising the anchor of a ship in order to set sail; to unyoke a weary team of oxen at the end of a day so that they could graze) *is at hand*. The Christian never dies, never ceases to exist. I’m just going to depart. I will leave here and I will be home! I’m striking this tent to go home to heaven. I’m raising the anchor to sail home to the harbor that I long for! I’m being released from my long season of labor now to enjoy the rich pasture of heaven. That’s how he saw death – as a departure. (end of dk)

v. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Here we have the whole tone of the letter! Paul know his own death is imminent. He knows he’s going to die. He is writing with tremendous sobriety because death is just around the corner. The drink offering was often used in conjunction with the burnt offering. When the animal being offered had been skinned and the entrails cleaned, the whole animal was placed on the altar and burned entirely, as a consecration offering. The drink offering consisted of ¼ of a hin (about 6 cups) of wine, which was poured on the hot, sizzling animal being burned. The wine would quickly, sizzle, evaporate and soon disappear completely, causing a sweet aroma in the meantime. What Paul is saying here, is that my whole life has been an offering of consecration. It’s been consecrated to God. It’s been His to use and do with, however, He pleases. Now looking at death, I see it as a drink offering. The final offering on top of the burnt offering. When that fragrance went into the air it was a sweet fragrance to the Lord. On top of having lived my life now for the things of the Lord, it is my privilege to now die for Him on top of that. I know it will be a sweet fragrance to Him, in order to be faithful to God’s call on his life.

v. 5 How willing are we to be watchful? To endure afflictions? To do the work of an evangelist? To fulfill your ministry? One day we are going to stand before the Lord, who is going to judge those that are alive and dead at His coming and in the Kingdom. So make full proof. The Bible says to judge ourselves, for if we are to judge ourselves, we will not be judged of God.

v. 6 Timothy, you need to fulfill the ministry you’ve been called to. I’m ready! What a challenge! Can we say this right now? Think a moment – am I ready? The way to measure this is to say, if I knew the Lord was coming tomorrow, or before the end of this week, sit and take inventory of your life. What would have to change?

v. 7 Paul is telling Timothy, one day, as a servant of the Lord, you’re going to come to the end of your life and these are the things that you will be able to rejoice in. The false teachers have it easier now, but one they will lie on their deathbed and one thing they will never be able to say in verse seven - *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*. Timothy, all of it is worth it, to be able to say **this** at the end of your life! Can we say that?

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2Ti 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

*2Ti 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.
2Ti 4:12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.*

2Ti 4:13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.

2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

v. 10 The reason is - *for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens has gone for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.* Crescens and Titus have gone to Galatia and Dalmatia, not because there was anything wrong with them, but they’ve gone on Kingdom business. They’ve gone to take care of those things. Demas has forsaken me. He doesn’t want to pay the price to identify with me any longer. He loves the things of the world too much, so he had departed. Paul says, I’m facing death and I’m all alone here, except for Luke. It’s interesting that when we’re facing death, we love to have someone around who loves you, don’t we? The ministry of Mother Teresa was so wonderfully prompted by her conviction that no one, not even those on the street, should die alone! There should be another human being there with them! Paul says I’m getting ready to die and I sure could use a friend close to me. Timothy, could you come quickly? Demas has forsaken me. How painful. Someone in Paul’s own life, who has had had much time invested. Now has gone back into the world, the end result is nothing. This is the world’s worst time to do something like this to Paul. But Demas’ are into Demas. They don’t care.

v. 11 *Only Luke is with me.* Only Luke has stuck with me – good, old faithful Luke. Now Paul says something very interesting! *Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.* How important are those words! – “*useful to me*”! Paul didn’t always feel this way about Mark. The experiences in *Acts 15:36-41*, resulted in a division between Paul and Barnabas, because of John Mark’s quitting and going home. Here we see that God has brought Paul and Mark back together. Paul is requesting to have Mark accompany Timothy in coming to him, and so importantly, saying “*he is useful*” to me! Barnabas nurtured Mark and now years later, God had healed the division, Paul and Mark have been reconciled and Paul can say, *Get Mark, ...He is useful for me!* This is such an encouraging passage for all of us, because we’ve all made mistakes and we need to allow God to reconcile where needed! Thank You Lord, for your reconciling and healing us!

v. 12 *And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.* Paul likely had sent Tychicus to Ephesus in order to relieve Timothy that he might come to Paul, there in Rome.

v. 13 *Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come,* Some personal, practical requests. Bring the cloak. Most likely that means a heavy, warm coat, not a light windbreaker, for the winters were cold in Rome, especially in Paul’s cold, damp, dank, prison cell. *and the books, especially the parchments.* And when you come, bring written things of the Lord. Paul, even with such a great mind, needed to continually to be spiritual fed. In order to grow we too, need to be spiritually fed on the Word of God! We too, need to grow, all the way to the end of our life!

v. 14 *Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm.* Paul is saying that Alexander really did me a lot of damage! Somehow this man did a lot of damage – either in opposing the gospel or in appearing at Paul’s hearing, but notice Paul is not bitter as he puts Alexander in God’s care for correction - *the Lord repay him according to his works.*

v. 10 How sad it is to see the downward trend of some leaving the ministry. Demas, formerly a fellow laborer. Then, he’s just there. And now he’s not there. He is forsaken, having loved the present world. He’s gone to Thessalonica. How strong are we in our faith, should persecution come as it had in Rome? Would I be one who would go back into the world?

vs. 11-12 Paul must have realized that Timothy and Mark are no longer the same men that they were at the beginning of their walk with the Lord. How they have grown! Can that be said of us? Nobody that’s serious about the Lord can stay in the same state of spiritual maturity! We learn to become more gracious as we grow! Are we “division healers” or do we tend more toward sowing discord?

v. 13 In order to grow we too, need to be spiritually fed on the Word of God! We need to grow, all the way to the end of our life!

v. 14 Notice that although this man, Alexander did much harm, Paul is not bitter but puts Alexander in God’s corrective care. Is that what we would have done?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Ti 4:15 *You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.*

2Ti 4:16 *At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.*

2Ti 4:17 *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.*

2Ti 4:18 *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!*

v. 15 *You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.* Timothy, be aware of him. He did me much harm! Nobody is going to be in the ministry very long if we get bitter or vengeful over things done wrong to us in the ministry. Those things need to be left with the Lord and let Him take care of it!

v. 16 *At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me* - Paul’s first defense would have meant his first hearing before the Roman judges. What they would do is that you would come before them. The charges would be brought against you. Then there would be witnesses that would come in that would speak against you. Then there would be character witnesses that would come in and speak of your favor concerning your character and the unfairness of the charges and all. Paul said when it came to that part of the hearing, where there might have been some witnesses to speak of my innocence and my character, he said there was no one! There were legitimate reasons some of them weren’t there. Paul had given his whole life to the ministry. When it comes down to the whole deal, on the most important day of my hearing, there was no one appearing with me, I was all alone. I’m not bitter about it! He looked up and said. **May it not be charged against them.** It was dangerous to them at this point to appear in Rome as a Christian. He understood.

v. 17 *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.* Paul said, nobody else was there, but I was conscious of the presence of the Lord! The Lord will always do that! Notice that when Paul used the opportunity to speak of his innocence and to speak of his character, rather than doing that, instead, as we see in the Book of Acts, he used the opportunity to preach the gospel to the Gentile judges, that were judging him, in season and out of season. **Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.** Speaking as someone who has narrowly escaped death! Because in my first hearing I narrowly escaped death! But I did!

v. 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!* That deliverance is going to come, Paul knows, by death. The time of my departure is at hand. The word, departure, is an interesting word in the Greek. It’s a word that speaks of untying or unloosing. It is used of a ship that has been tied at the mooring, but is not ready to set sail. And so they loose the moorings, the departure, the unloosing of the moorings, so that the ship can set sail. Paul didn’t look at death as coming safely into the harbor. He looked at death as leaving the harbor and setting sail into the glorious eternal future. It’s the word that was used for pulling up the tent stakes. Paul said, I’m about ready to pull up the tent stakes and move on. To the Corinthians, he said, that we know when this earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building of God not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. I’m about ready to pull up the tent stakes, move out of the tent and move into the building of God, eternal in the heavens. And so the time of my departure is near. And the Lord is going to deliver me.

v. 15 We too, need to be aware of those who are against the correct teaching of the Gospel and are committed to tearing down the work God’s work.

v. 16 Paul was left to stand alone. They all forsook me. So often times, the deepest valleys have to be traversed alone. When Jesus went through the valley for us, it was alone. Mark tells us, they all forsook Him and fled. So He stood alone! He suffered and died for us, alone! So Paul now is experiencing the fellowship of the sufferings of Jesus, as he has to stand alone. Are we willing?

v. 17 Paul’s testimony was what the Lord had done for him. Earlier, Paul spoke about having borne witness, when he stood before Nero. That he had the opportunity to bear witness there at the first hearing. But God requires that we bear witness. It’s up to the Lord then to do with it what He pleases. So once again, Paul it seems, is deserted by his friends. He is alone. But the Lord stood with me. He strengthened me that by me the preaching might be fully known.

v. 18 Can we imagine being in Paul’s situation. He realizes that it is though death that deliverance will come and will preserve me for His heavenly kingdom: **to Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen!** I’m soon to be with the Lord! The time of my departure is at hand! I’m ready to be offered up. I’m ready to be poured out for the Lord.

