

2 Timothy 4

Introduction

A very important chapter, because it is the last inspired writing of the Apostle Paul

- In time sequence *2 Timothy 4* was his final statement recorded in the Bible
- Titus* and *Philemon* are still left in canonical order, but not in chronological order

2 Timothy 4.1-5

V 1–What does that word “charge” indicate? The seriousness of this chapter

- What is the basis of this charge? God and Christ
- What is the qualification of Jesus Christ to be the author of this charge? The judge of the living and the dead, His second coming, His kingdom
- Paul was, in effect, taking an oath here (as in a courtroom)
- This is a very solemn and auspicious opening
- Remember: Paul is awaiting execution and probably would not see Timothy again – therefore, these are Paul’s last words to his son in the faith

V 2– What was the charge? To preach the word

- What is involved in preaching the word? Letting the message of the passage become the centerpiece of the lesson
- Most of us have heard lessons on things such as the shoe: It has a tongue that has to be controlled, it has a sole (phew), it can be a heel – just awful, absolutely awful that anyone would deliver such a lesson
- Preaching the word means using the Scriptures as the basis of the lesson
- Which “word” was Timothy to preach? All of the Scriptures (*2 Timothy 3.16-17*)
- When should the word be preached? When people want to hear it and when they do not want to hear it
- Duties of the preacher? Reprove (show faults of people)
 - Rebuke (tell them they need to correct things)
 - Exhort (encourage them)
 - Use great patience and instruction

V 3 – What would happen with God’s people? There would be tendency to drift away

- What would they do then? Hire preachers who would preach what they wanted to hear
- How up-to-date the Bible is!

V 4 – What would happen with false preachers? They would turn away from the truth and be lost

V 5– What were Paul’s instructions to Timothy? Be sober (serious), endure hardship, do the work of the evangelist (notice: the preacher is not called “pastor,” unless he is also serving as an elder), fulfill his ministry

2 Timothy 4.6-8

V 6– On Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey, he was put in prison

- But here it is much more serious (this is his second imprisonment)
- What were Paul's prospects for release?** Zero
- His execution was certain (present perfect tense)
- In other words, it had, in effect, already taken place

V 7 – How did Paul summarize his Christian life? He had fought the good fight

- In other words, there are spiritual battles that many Christians have to fight in this life
- He had finished the course, and he had kept the faith
- What temptations would Paul have had to abandon the faith?** Prestige of being a great Jewish leader and a great scholar, the praise of the Jewish world
- Thought question: **Will we be able to make this statement when it comes time for us to depart?**

V 8 – The result of a faithful life? A crown of righteousness was to be given to Paul

- Who else could receive this crown?** All others who would love his appearing
- Do we look forward to his coming?**
- Thought question: **Would we make the Second Coming today if we could (if it would be in our power)?**

Read 1 Corinthians 16.22 and Revelation 22.20

2 Timothy 4.9-18

V 9 – Paul's request? That Timothy visit him in prison

- Why should he come soon?** Because the date of his execution was near

V 10 – What had happened to Demas? He had deserted Paul

- Why?** He loved the present world more than he loved Jesus Christ
- Meaning?** The glamor of the Roman Empire and embarrassment over Paul
- Read Philemon 23-24** – Demas had once been a faithful brother in Christ – it is very sad that he had deserted Paul
- We are living almost two thousand years later – **Who made the right choice about life: Demas or Paul?**
- Where had Crescens and Titus gone?** On their own missionary journeys
- Dalmatia – north of Greece: east shore of Adriatic Sea (Illyricum)

V 11 – Who was with Paul? Luke (the doctor)

- What was Paul's request about John Mark?** Bring him to Rome
- Why did Paul need John Mark?** Because he would be useful
- Paul's attitude toward John Mark had changed – **Read Acts 15.36-41**
- Why had Paul and Barnabas separated over John Mark?** John Mark had gotten homesick and had gone back to Jerusalem (where his mother lived)
- A message there?** People sometimes change for the better – sometimes they need to mature
- John Mark had gotten over his homesickness

V 12 – Where was Tychicus? On his way to Ephesus

V 13 – Paul’s request? Bring the coat from Troas, along with the books and parchments

-Anyone who has ever preached the gospel can understand what Paul is saying: I need my books and notes

-The gospel preacher must constantly be reading and studying and working on upcoming sermons

V 14 – Either Alexander of Ephesus (*Acts 19.33*) or Alexander the false teacher (*1 Timothy 1.19-20*)

-No way to tell which one (could have been the same person)

-**What was Paul’s attitude toward Alexander?** God would repay him – **Read Romans 12.19**

-In other words, vengeance belongs to God, and he will carry it out according to his timetable and his schedule

V 15 – Paul’s warning to Timothy? Be careful of Alexander

V 16 – What happened when Paul made his first appearance in court? All deserted him

-**Why would the Christians of Rome have deserted him?** Because of the prejudice against Christians in Rome (due to Nero)

V 17 – At the trial? The Lord was with Paul, and the Gentiles heard the gospel

-**What can we assume that Paul spoke about at the trial?** The gospel of Jesus Christ

-**What was one positive result of Paul’s defense at his trial?** He would not be thrown to the lions (a common practice in Roman "sports")

V 18 – A beautiful verse!

-**How was Paul able to face death?** He was going to the heavenly kingdom – that was the only thing that mattered

-Thought question: **Is that our attitude toward this life?** It should be just making it to heaven

2 Timothy 4.19-22 – Final details

V 19 –Whom do we see mentioned again? Priscilla and Aquilla

-**Who were they?** Christians that Paul met in *Act 18.2* – they had helped Paul on many occasions

-We read about them through *Acts* and the 13 letters of Paul

-**Who was Onesiphorus?** *2 Timothy 1.17* – The man who had sought out Paul in Rome and had visited him

V 20 – Who was Erastus? *Acts 19.22* – He had helped Paul on the Third Missionary Journey (*Romans 16.23*)

-He had worked as the city treasurer at Corinth

-Notice that Christians can work for the civil government, as long as other principles of the Christian faith are not violated

-**Who was Trophimus?** *Acts 21.29* – The riot at Jerusalem at the end of the Third Missionary Journey was caused when people thought that Paul took Trophimus (a Gentile) into the temple

-**Where was Trophimus now?** Sick at Miletus

-**Significance?** The gift of healing worked only in accordance with the will of God

-There were some situations (as with Paul and his thorn in the flesh) that God used to strengthen his people

V 21 – **Meaning: Come before winter?** His execution was set for the winter

-Other ideas: sailing was dangerous in the winter, and Paul needed a coat (cloak)

-**Who are Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia?** Other Christians – nothing else is known about them, but they were helpers of Paul

-They have been immortalized for all time because of their good deeds toward Paul

V 22 – Final words to Timothy and to the congregation (plural pronoun in Greek – so this was for the whole congregation)

-**What is your favorite verse from 2 Timothy?**

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