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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 167 (IN THE NT SECTION)  
IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

## A. Introduction

Endure hardships like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. - 2 Tim. 2:3

1. 2 Timothy will be the last letter the Apostle Paul writes.
2. It's personal—he mentions twenty-three individuals, including Timothy.
3. Although he is facing death, he is thinking of others, not himself.
4. 1 and 2 Timothy (and Titus) are the three “Pastoral Epistles” written to pastors—not churches. Timothy was in Ephesus; Titus was in Crete.
5. Paul led Timothy to Christ during his first missionary journey and invited him into the ministry during his second missionary journey.
6. As Paul's execution neared, he sent a letter to young Timothy (whom he loves like a son) offering him some final pastoral advice about the ministry.
7. Paul was martyred in mid-65AD; Timothy was martyred in 97 AD.
8. Paul speaks of “divine support” amid opposition and storms.

The first time I was brought before the judge, no one was here to help me. Everyone had run away. I hope that they will not be blamed for it. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and gave me the opportunity to boldly preach a whole sermon for all the world to hear. And he saved me from being thrown to the lions. <sup>18</sup> Yes, and the Lord will always deliver me from all evil and will bring me into his heavenly Kingdom. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- 2 Timothy 4:16-18, TLB

## B. Today's Text

# How God Helps Us!

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Let all that you do be done in love. - Paul in 1 Cor. 16:13-14

### 1. **PAST:** Only Christ gives **GRACE** for the **disappointments** of life.

**2 Timothy 4:16, NASB95** - <sup>16</sup> At my first defense [he stood before Nero] no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

**2 Timothy 4:16, NCV** - <sup>16</sup> The first time I defended myself, no one helped me; everyone left me. May they be forgiven.

This prayer for forgiveness is nothing less than the work of grace in Paul's life. - Alexander Maclaren, Expositions of the Holy Scriptures, vol. 16, p. 467

### 2. **PRESENT:** Only Christ gives us His **STRENGTH** for the **storms** of life.

**2 Timothy 4:17, NASB95** - <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me [Christ lit. gives us HIS strength], so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

**2 Timothy 4:17, NLT** - <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death.

### 3. **FUTURE:** Only Christ gives us **HOPE** for the **end of life**.

**2 Timothy 4:18, NLT** - <sup>18</sup> Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.