

Good morning Parkland Chapel. If any visitors are here, my name is Jason Cravens and I'm honored to open the Word of God with you this morning. We are going to continue and conclude our study in the book of Second Timothy. If you would like to move that direction in your Bibles will be in chapter 4 today as our kick off point, but in the form of introduction. If you've been with us over the past month, you'll notice that Pastor Jordan kicked us off for the first couple of chapters and gave us a wonderful outline for the book. This is a personal letter, and I asked you last week that if you had the time, make the time to read through the whole letter so you could really get that heart, that sense of Paul the Apostle writing to his beloved son in the faith a very personal letter. His time is short, as we will find out later in this chapter, yet again. And he is passing on in many ways, some important final thoughts here in chapter four. But what we found in those first two chapters was that Timothy, a young pastor in a very large city who had challenges each and every day that we could only imagine, needed some encouragement. And so Paul was faithful to do that. He would remind him, of course, as we mentioned last week, of his godly heritage, Timothy was blessed with a mother and a grandmother who raised him in the scriptures. And what a beautiful thing. And probably the most important thing we can pass on to our children is just that. The truth. He would also remind him of his gifts and even his calling. Paul had prayed over him and laid hands on him to send him into ministry. He trusted him a great deal and he loved him and that also is communicated through us, to us, through this letter. It is that God's faithfulness will be evident and with us at all times, and we'll visit some of that today. In the second half of the the book, I got to start out last week with chapter 3. Paul gets a little more serious and pointed in his subject matter and his tone. He's going to give some warnings, warnings of difficulties. We get a clear picture of the times these last days that we talked about last week, and again, a broad definition. There would be the time between the Lord Jesus's first coming and his second coming, which is imminent. And so we we heard about perilous times, and we got a clear description of the people, the spirit of the age As we kicked off chapter 3. But Paul was faithful to provide that Christian contrast and his greatest tool, as is our greatest tool, is the work that God had done in his own heart and the own his own life, as he exemplified it before. Young Timothy. He would take him back through much of his journey, and Christian, as a reminder, we speak volumes with our life much higher in intensity than the words that even come out of our mouth. They should match. So finally, we landed in a beautiful spot the Word of God, where the end of chapter 3 emphasizes its usefulness, it's complete covering of every need we could possibly have. The foundation of truth. Our life is to be built on. And we even visited that long chapter the longest in the Bible. Psalm 119 and we discovered a psalmist who fell in love with the Word of God, who was shaped by the Word of God, who was directed by the Word of God.

And we sort of close with the idea found in John 8:31 and 32, verse, a couple of verses that are on the backs of my students throughout our year, where we if we were to abide in the truth, to live in it, to dwell in it, the ultimate result of that, the ultimate theme of Psalm 119 is we will become his kids and we will know the God of the word. And that's really where I would love. And my prayer for you this morning is, is to hear the heart of our Heavenly Father as he speaks through Paul with these very personal and final words for us in Second Timothy. So a quick outline. We're going to hear a final charge, a solemn one. We're going to get a final warning. We're going to hear a final, what we'll call a valedictorian address. And then Paul is going to be so gracious to let the guard down, and we're going to see the human side of Paul. We're going to find that he hurts like us. He feels like us. He's fearful occasionally like us. And we're going to learn some really important things over the last stretch. As he closes in his final greetings. So let's not delay any further and let's head into chapter 4, verse 1, where it says, 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. Preach the word. Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching, for the time will come when they. I'm sorry. We'll stop there for a second. I've got some things to say. The Lord has been working with me this week, so let's dive into these first two. And let's first identify the fact that this word charge has some heavier weight to it than just the challenges we were lightheartedly teasing about over the last couple of weekends. See, it's this idea of a courtroom. I want you to picture that with me. There's a judge, there's a jury. It's got some seriousness to it. And this charge is the same weight that you would have if you were testifying under oath in a court of law. You see, you're compelled to tell the truth. In fact, there are consequences if you don't. So, as Paul is charging him, this is serious. And we notice there's a judge in the room, right? He identifies that judge as our Lord Jesus. Now, I would like to reference Acts chapter 10. If you want to go back there with me. Picking up here in verse 42, this scenery is when Paul actually Peter is in the house of Cornelius, really bringing the gospel to the Gentiles for the first time. And it says in verse 42, and he referring to Christ, commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that it is he who was ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. So Christ is the judge, and he is a judge. We will all have to face. In fact, back in first, Peter would continue in chapter 4, verse 5 was where we'll pick up where he says they will give an account to him. Speaking of Jesus, who is ready to judge the living and the dead. And also in Hebrews we find that this court date that we all have waiting for us is most certainly an appointment. We cannot avoid. In fact, in Hebrews chapter 9, verse 27, it says, and as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. All right, so it's clear we all have an appointment. Our days are numbered. There's a judge. We will

stand before and last I checked the death rates in opposition to all the experts of the day. They haven't changed. Ten out of ten people will come to that point where they leave this earth, and they're going to stand before that judge. So I want you to note, Paul's very aware of this. You know, he's been before the Emperor himself. You know, he is awaiting what amounts to his execution. He understands the the heaviness of the situation. What does he do there at the end of verse 1, back there in in second Timothy chapter 4, he says, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom, he recognizes that the Lord is returning, even as his life is dwindling down right. And he also recognizes he will rule and reign. And we would be wise to do so because it is already set. What does he say? He's charging us seriously. He says, preach the word. That word preach, of course, means to proclaim, to herald. The idea of publishing it. Through my years of coaching, I would tell my my athletes, you know, once you write your goals down, they become real, right? So we're to proclaim this word. It's to become real in our lives. We're to be ready at all times. That's inconvenient. Times, convenient times, unplanned, planned. Whether you're in a group or you're in an individual conversation. We do that by abiding in the word. And I would think some of you like me, shifting around in the seat a little bit. There's a lot of fear attached to that. For some, it may be public speaking, for some it may be saying a hard thing to a loved one. A friend, a hard thing that happens to be the truth and see, the Lord understands that. In fact, if you remember Pastor Jordan back in the first chapter he had he he read the part where Paul was again trying to encourage Timothy. But he said in verse 7 of chapter 1, For God has not given us a spirit of fear. Don't you know that when you're afraid that's not from the Lord, right? What he what has he given us? He but of power and of love and of a sound mind. You're like, well, that's great, but I still would be nervous talking to people. You got any more for me? Well, the Lord Jesus addressed it specifically. So we can go to Luke 12 for that. And if you pick up with me in verse 11, this is Jesus speaking. He says, now when they bring to you, you to the synagogues, and magistrates and authorities, just about sums up everyone that's in charge in in that realm. Right? Do not worry about how or what you should answer or what you should say. Key verse here for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. So, Christian, we're to preach the word. We're not listen to those voices of fear that plague all of us. If we're honest. And we're to know that he has promised us that he will meet us in that moment. And the Holy Spirit will speak through us, as he's called us to speak So as we finish up this second verse, back in second Timothy, there are a lot of action words. It says convince. And that's closely related to the idea of conviction. You know, the Word of God will lead us to conviction. We'll understand where we've gone off. It says rebuke. We talked about that word reprove. Very related there in terms of the word of God leading us back to the path

when we stray, showing us where we have strayed. It continues with exhort, with all long suffering. Don't miss that extreme patience and teaching. Don't waver off the truth. All right? God's word is faithful. Continuing now in verse 3, for the time will come, we've heard the final charge. It's time for the final warning, 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, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist fulfill your ministry. So as he heads into this final warning, notice the very clear, and there's no wavering in the language for the time will come. He did that last chapter, didn't he? It? And men will not endure sound doctrine, and it's a good reminder to us, Christian, the moment you stray away from the truth of the Word of God, you are in danger of being influenced and directed to deceiving spirits. In fact, Paul wrote to Timothy a previous time that we have record of here in the scriptures and in first Timothy chapter 4. In verse 1 he says, Now the spirit expressly says that in latter times there's those last days again, some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron. Did you hear that? We can sear our. I was so happy this morning, by the way. I was ironing my shirt, which didn't really work. As you can see, but I was afraid that he was going to give me an object lesson, and I was going to have this big burn on the side of me. I don't do that very often. So anyway, you can sear your own conscience the moment you stray off the word deception is the result. I have up there also for you. Ephesians six, because it said here in that deception back in first Timothy, that the doctrines of demons would be our influence. Sounds sort of heavy, right? Well, it is heavy. Let's go back to Ephesians six, a well-known passage. And in chapter six, verse 12, right after exhorting the church there to put on the armor of God, to understand where under 24 seven onslaught, right, to understand that he says, for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, right. So what happens when we stray is inevitably those itching, those tickling ears, those things you can't ignore will lead us to influences that aren't just a little off the path. They have ties to the demonic, the enemy directly. See, we've got to. We've got to bring the Word of God to bear on our lives. It has to be with us in everything we do, in all we consider, in fact, if this is real, which it is, where do we avoid this? How do we avoid this? Well, we have some proven patterns, and that's where I'd like to turn your attention to next acts chapter 2. We visited it last week and we'll revisit that exact area where Peter comes out of that upper room. The Spirit of God has fallen on the disciples, and he preaches. And picking up in verse 40, it says, and

with many other words, he being Peter, testified and exhorted them, saying, be saved from this perverse generation. Verse 41 then those who gladly received his word were baptized. And that day, about 3000 souls were added to them. 3000 and they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. Pattern number one, right there at the birth of the church, they continued again, we've used the word abide today already in the apostles doctrine. What was that? The word of God, the scriptures. You've got to continue in it. But look at the second one. It's fellowship. And in these perilous times, in this state of a country and a culture that we live in, it is high time we stop making excuses about assembling with our brothers and sisters. Now I'm preaching to the choir. You're all here, but how important it is for the body of Christ to come together. You say, what about those hypocrites? You know those sinners like that guy on the stool? I know he's a sinner, right? You're right. But the Holy Spirit is present here. The gifts of the spirit are active and at work here. God is transforming lives here. Why would you stay away? Don't look at the project that's in the process of becoming that masterpiece. Look at the God who is doing miracles. I mean, look next to you. I mean, where else would you be around these folks, right here? Because God has brought us together. Don't don't ever go away from that. The breaking of bread. And while we love food. This is really a reference directly to the Lord's Table communion. Right? What is that? What happens there? We remember together we commemorate. We look back at what he has done for us. It's steadied us, steadies us. It's centered us, centers us on that. Potter's will. Right? The truth of what Jesus has done for us, that we are free. Amazing stuff. But it also allows him to examine our hearts. If you welcome him in. Like the psalmist, lead me in the way everlasting. Show me where I'm off. Right? And that work is so important and needs to be consistent in the life of a believer, all right. And finally, prayer. There was a small group of faithful saints praying before the first service for these services, and that's something you're all invited to, by the way, if you ever want to, to come alongside. But what a beautiful thing, because prayer is that communion with God where you're talking, it's a relationship. Remember, you hear from him through His word, through his people, by his spirit. But you also put the focus off you and your problems, and you can intercede for others. And their scriptures are drenched, soaked with example after example of how God works through prayer. Maybe if I don't go too long, we'll have time at the end to address some of that. But there's other patterns. And he had one right there in second Timothy four. So let's go back. What did he say there in verse 5. But you be watchful in all things. I won't belabor the point. We looked at that last week. Be vigilant. Be a guard. Right. Be watchful in all things. Endure afflictions. He was faithful to tell Timothy the truth. Christians will endure persecution. He said, endure them. That word is going to be key as we move forward. By the way, do the

work of an evangelist. Your life should be an example of the gospel at work. And when God gives you that spot, that opening, be bold and take it and present the truth. Truth. It can change a life. And I say this because it's been on my heart a lot. There are people in your life, loved ones, family members, good friends that maybe you've been praying for years for, and you're like, man, maybe God. Just maybe he's just not one of those do not cease praying. I mean, I'm an example. I'm on a stool. I never should be on. And you all have them. And I've heard countless testimony of parents and kids coming to the Lord after ten, 20, even 25, 30 years of prayer. Do not give up on what the Lord is doing. Be faithful. As an evangelist and then to fulfill your mission. Your ministry, your calling. We talked last week about everyone has works. It blows your mind. Ephesians 210 that were were put in place beforehand for you to walk in. That's how awesome God is. Mike always exhorts us. At least I know I've heard him do it from the stool, but in my life personally, he says, keep plowing straight rows. You need that when you're trying to plant a school. Trust me. Right? But you need that in anything that he has called you to keep plowing. All right, I told you there was a valedictorian address. We're fresh off of graduations. I know at our school we're going to have our first two seniors this coming year. One of them's in the back of the room, and we're excited about experiencing that. But say there's an address. I think Paul's probably earned the right to be in the running for the valedictorian here in the New Testament, right up writing so much of it. But this is what he would say read with me, for I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. 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 jumps off the page, doesn't it? I fought the good fight. I see a few coaches out there, spoke to a couple in the first service. Man, a coach can't help but get all jazzed up when you think about a good fight. You know, last weekend on Sunday, I called my dad. When I got home, Father's Day and all and going to get a chance to go spend some time with him here over the next couple of weeks And he rebuked me like real quick, like after the the greetings and all, he said something. I think it was first service. You guys didn't have to hear it, but I was describing that father son relationship. Some practical things and it come about and came out of my mouth. I don't even know how it happened that my dad didn't teach me as many of those early on, but I did learn martial arts, and I said that that was strange. So he's like, well, thanks, son. Happy Father's Day to you, too. Why'd you rebuke? Why did why did you call martial arts strange? And so, you know, you can tell I'm getting a little nervous, right? I'm about to go see him for two weeks. Might experience some martial arts I wasn't planning on. Right. So this is my feeble attempt to, you know, make make amends. But don't you love a

good fight? I was exposed to a lot of them. Got to see some boxing matches. Learned a lot from my dad and his students. Very interesting characters. Saw the first UFC with him back when those started years ago in the 90s. So there's some some of those kind of things that are akin to me. Maybe that's a little too barbaric for you. Maybe. Maybe a team sport, football, basketball, whatever it is that floats your boat. I mean, not everyone can love the greatest sport on the planet, the competitive swimming. Of course. You guys are laughing. I don't understand, I got a few people back there to understand, but that's about it, right? My wife is fist pumping. That has never happened when I've taught. By the way. So what is it that makes a fight a good fight, right? Well, first you empty the tank. You know, the competitors, the combatants, they're all in And Paul shows us this in the first verse. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering. Poured out this idea of a drink offering actually shows up in Scripture first, back in Genesis 35 with Jacob, we see it again with instructions on those in the Mosaic Law. Even in the Roman culture that this was written in, often they would pour out a libation like some kind of sacrifice to their false gods at the end of a meal, when they gathered so they would understand. Timothy would understand what this meant. What does that look like for a Christian today? Well, it's a surrendered life, but it's a fully surrendered life. There's nothing we're to hold back from him. Christian. It's all his. He purchased it with his blood. He loves us dearly. We are to, as Romans 12 said, the only reasonable response is to, you know, give it back to him as a full sacrifice. It's his. So emptying the tank also perseverance and endurance. There's that word endure again. Let's start with that one. Let's go to Hebrews 12. And in chapter 12, verse 1 it reads. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, they even have a stadium. In Scripture you see that it's like a stadium event. The whole deal, right? I've lost my place. The cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. You know, any good fight is going to require endurance. We're in it. How about perseverance for that? Let's go back to Philippians. And this is the apostle Paul writing to the church in Philippi. Verse 12 of chapter 3. It says, not that I have already attained or already perfected and completed, but I press on. There's your perseverance that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended. But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. This idea of persevering and it's difficult. You look at Paul and he certainly persevered through things. We can mostly only imagine, not actually have experienced. But we as Christians all have those spots in our life, don't we? Failures. We might define them as sin a past. We'll just summarize it like a past. How can we, you know, be in this fight and

expect to be able to get through it? When I have all that that I'm dealing with every day, right. Well God is faithful and we're going to get to that in just a second. I'm skipping points, but it is important for the believer to understand that he is the one fighting for us. So we're in it to win. First Corinthians nine. It's worth looking at before I summarize that section, verse 24, it says, do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it? Again, running to win and everyone who competes for the prize is temperate. It's another name for self-control. Like you're going to abide by the rules in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we, for an unperishable, imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus not with uncertainty. Thus I fight not as one who beats the air, not shadow. I'm laying in blows, but I discipline my body and bring it into subjection. Lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. So again, whether it's perseverance, endurance, this idea that we're coming in to win this thing, there is no, as I think Pastor Jordan told me, there's no first loser, second place. But as I was starting to allude to, how can we expect to reach the top of that mountain? You know, that gold medal stand for the real sport, right? We can't. Except that our champion has gone before us and already secured that victory. You see, the beautiful thing for the Christian is that we fight from a place of victory. We're not like those athletes, those combatants striving for trying to achieve in our own strength, our own victory for our own glory and our own imperishable wreath. I mean, at least they get gold medals now. They used to get like flowery things, wreaths. Right? But guess what? They're all perishable. So we're fighting from a place of victory as believers, as followers of Jesus Christ, because our champion has already secured it for us. A good fight. All right, so Paul, as we head back to second Timothy has given his valedictorian speech He's closed the book, sort of in that sense. But why are there 13 more verses that I have to do in six minutes? That's fantastic. Thank you. Elena. Because again, he's going to let his guard down. We're going to see him as a human, not a superhero. We're going to see his life as like ours, not something we can't live in and walk in. So let's do it. We'll try to go quick, but no promises on the time. Verse nine. Be diligent to come to me quickly, for Demas has forsaken me. Having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica. You know, we we don't know a lot about every one of these names, but we could see them here. They're they pop up. Demas popped up in Scripture before. In fact, he was in Philemon as a co-laborer, a fellow laborer who at this point, by the time we get to Second Timothy, he has faded away. He's in Colossians. We got some greetings, but in our lives there's a tendency. And be careful again. Why do we want to stay in fellowship? Because it's easy to start thinking, well, I've done my time. You know, I did a few years, I stepped out in faith. But we're all in. Remember? And so don't don't be like Demas, who has

faded away because of the love of this world, this present world is fading. If you can't see it now, you won't be able to see it. It's everywhere you turn right. It's in your face. Christians for Galatia. We don't know much about him. Titus, another young pastor. There's a book here in the New Testament. Of course. A letter from Paul to Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Good old Doctor Luke, author of the gospel in the Book of Acts. Get Mark. And this is where we will camp for a minute and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. This is really important. You know, Mark grew up around those disciples. He even possibly saw him in his own gospel account. It's not for sure little thumb wrestling there, but when they were in the Garden of Gethsemane, he talks about a young man who lost his cloak on the way out, as he was running for fear from the soldiers. And a lot of people. No reason not to believe, believe it's him. Embarrassing, right? Well, a little bit later, Peter was imprisoned by Herod and the believers were gathered at Mark's mother's house. Right. So he was well versed with these guys. He knew him. And back in acts 13, he went out on that first missionary journey. I think we mentioned it last week. And what happens is in early in that chapter, we find that he leaves them at Pamphylia. He leaves them. We're not giving any reason why we can just guess. But what we can know for sure is Paul was not pleased about it because in acts 15, as they're preparing he and Barnabas to go out on another missionary journey to revisit those churches, encourage them, see how they're doing. Barnabas, who's related, I believe Mark is his nephew. He wants to take him with Paul says, I'm I'm not taking him with me. Right. He didn't even stay with us. He left us at Pamphylia. Check that out. There's some homework for you. Acts 15. Right. And it got so intense between these two godly men that they broke off. And they both went with different guys. Barnabas took Mark, Paul took Silas. You know, two mission teams. And I'm not going to get into who was right because they were both godly men. But what I want you to see is because these are the last chronological words we're reading from Paul in the New Testament. God had been working. He had been restoring. He worked in Mark's life. He worked in Paul's life. And that is a beautiful phrase. He is useful for me in ministry because it shows how God is faithful, even when we fail each other or we disagree, which isn't wrong. You're going to meet Barnabas one day. You're going to meet Paul one day. It's a good thing again, God's faithfulness. Let's keep going. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas. When you come in the books, especially the parchments. This is my favorite verse of the chapter, I think. So if if we were in modern times, they would know what swim parkas were. And this is like my wife, every time she said, bring my parka, bring my parka. Right. Hey, that's not even I'm not even giving her a hard time this time. So he's he's a normal human being. He's going to be cold. Winter's coming. He needs his cloak. But students notice. Bring me the books. Especially the

parchments. Yeah, yeah. Not really getting the response. I was hoping for the books. Remember that? All right, 14. This is important, Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must be aware of him, for he is greatly resisted. Our words. You know, Christian, we're going to be wronged even in the body of Christ. And sometimes that resistance will be where you've got to step up and be bold and say a hard thing that might even break a relationship. You never know, at least temporarily. But the best thing to do in Paul is emulating that. Here is you don't get bitter and hold grudges and make things worse. You give it to the Lord. Why? Well, the Lord will repay justly. He won't amp it up and make you in the wrong as much as the person who wronged you. He also, as we just visited with Mark, may restore that relationship. But believe me, you already know this. You're going to respond to the Lord talking to you a lot easier than respond to me or some someone that you feel has wronged you. So we allow the Lord time to do his work, and we allow the Lord to handle justice if it needs to be meted out. We don't take it into our own hands. Continuing in that line, at my first defense, no one stood with me. He had a trial already again, and everyone bailed his buddies so they didn't necessarily wrong him. They were scared. They left. They didn't stand with him. All right. What did he do? May it not be charged against them. You see, a forgiving heart You see again, leaving them in the Lord's hands. And this is key. And that's our final bullet point. There are going to be seasons. There are going to be times in your life where God asks you to walk it or walk that challenge alone, or you feel alone. At least, and be encouraged because verse 17 is the truth and it'll set you free when you're in those moments. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me so that the message might be preached fully through me. Did you catch that That solitude, that time, that part of your journey where you feel abandoned, you feel alone? It was necessary so that the word, the message might be preached fully through me. It was specific to his journey. He was supposed to be there. And God is there in a powerful way. When you're in that spot and you are all alone, he mentions. Also, I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly kingdom. He is going to get you past that finish line. He will not fail you again, faithful and worthy of your trust. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. Final greetings. Greet Prisca and Aquila, of course, dear friends, fellow Tentmakers. He did life with them in Corinth and Ephesus and the household of Vanessa Forest. Pastor Jordan taught and mentioned him in the first two chapters. Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in malate is sick. My final camping spot it Christian, your your illness, sicknesses, infirmities. They do not represent a lack of faith in your life, yet he can use any storm for correction. But by and large he has handpicked and allowed those sufferings into your life for your good, even when you can't see it and you feel like you can't stand it. But

Trophimus got left sick. Remember, this is the same Paul who in acts, I think 19 people were touching his handkerchief and being healed. You would think there's power coming from this man. Anytime, you know. Let's gather around him and have a healing party. Right. But he had a thorn in his own flesh that he prayed to be removed. Three times. And what was the Lord's answer? My grace is sufficient for you, Paul. My grace is sufficient All right. God's purposes are well beyond what we could possibly understand, especially in our our own lives. So if you're out there and you're struggling with something like that take encouragement. And this is where I close. Final greetings. I'll let you read through. But it says in verse 22, Grace be with you. God's grace will be with you in your darkest moments. In fact, you will know him in a way. You will grow to trust him in a way you will experience him in a way you never could. Apart from those times. Amen.

Heavenly father, thank you so much for your faithfulness and your word. Lord, it is our desire to to learn from every area of Scripture that we are able to go through. But to see this intimate relationship, to see the love of father, our perfect Heavenly Father, has for us, it's overwhelming at times. So, Lord, allow us, teach us, keep us in a spot where we will abide in your word and Lord, in those times that we feel like we're the only one that understands, the only one that's suffering, may your presence be powerfully and closely and impactfully in our conscience, in our mind, and in our lives. And may that Lord be part of our story that you've asked us to step into, that you will use to present the gospel to a dying world. And Lord, please save many. Please wake us up if we need awakened. And Lord, may you receive all glory and honor in these last days. We pray this all in Jesus name, Amen.