



The End
2 Timothy 4:9-22

Paul's Requests of Timothy

The majority of Paul's letter encouraged Timothy to use his gifts, warned him about false teachers, and instructed him how to live and teach in light of the false teachers and the world in which we live. However, Paul also had practical reasons for writing. Paul asked the following of Timothy (1) come to him soon before the winter (*Winter severely restricted travel in the Roman world. Furthermore, Paul probably didn't know how much time he had left to live.*) (2) bring Mark with him (*Paul had once considered Mark untrustworthy – Acts 15:36-40 – but Barnabas' concern to be patient with the young Mark paid off for Paul in the end.*) (3) bring the cloak Paul left in Troas with Carpus as well as his scroll and parchments (4) greet Prisca and Aquila (see Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19) and the household of Onesiphorus (*whom Paul had mentioned in 1:16*). Ministry is defending the gospel and sound doctrine. It's also about the little things that minister to people's everyday needs.

Paul's News for Timothy

Paul also gave Timothy news about people familiar to Timothy. Demas had deserted Paul and went to Thessalonica. Paul had sent Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia, and Tychicus to Ephesus. Erastus remained in Corinth and Paul left Trophimus sick in Miletus (*Erastus and Trophimus were old associates of Timothy. See Acts 19:22; 20:4; 21:29*). Luke was the only one with Paul now. Paul warned Timothy to watch out for Alexander the coppersmith who had done great harm to Paul and opposed their words. Paul passed on greetings from Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters. Ministry is defending the gospel and sound doctrine. It's also about people and our relationships with them.

Paul's Attitude Towards His Last Days

Paul's attitude toward his last days is a good example for us to follow anytime we reflect on our life or contemplate our future. (1) Paul had been deserted by Demas and harmed by Alexander. In fact, at Paul's first defense no one stood with him. Yet Paul didn't ask Timothy to seek vengeance, nor did Paul wallow in anger or bitterness toward those who had wronged him or deserted him. To those who deserted him, Paul prayed it wouldn't be counted against them. He left Alexander's fate in God's hands stating, "The Lord will repay him according to his works." (2) God had been with Paul through everything. The Lord had strengthened him at his trial when no one stood with him. The Lord rescued Paul so he could continue to preach the gospel. Paul was confident now God would rescue him in his death. (3) Paul saw his death as a rescue from all evil and a safe entrance into the kingdom of heaven. The thought of that entrance into heaven caused Paul to praise God with the words, "To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen."