



“Fight With Friends”

Pastor Kevin Redding | September 6, 2026

(2 Timothy 4:9-22)

FAITH BUILDING THOUGHT - We can't fight the good fight, finish the race, or keep the faith without being in friendship with others.

I. Friendship Takes _____

- Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)
- 2 Timothy 1:16-18
- Ephesians 4:29-31

II. Friendship Has _____

A. _____

1. Due to Negative Circumstances

- 1 Timothy 1:18-20
- 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- Matthew 13:7, 22
- John 6:66-70

2. Due to Positive Circumstances

- Acts 16:6
- Titus 1:1-5
- Acts 18:19; 20:4

B. _____

- Acts 15:36-41
- Acts 12:12, 25
- Acts 13:13
- Colossians 4:10

C. _____

- Colossians 4:14
- Luke 1:1-4
- Acts 1:1

III. Friendship Needs _____

A. Bond of the _____

- 1 Peter 1:22-23
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17

B. Bond of the _____

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 13

C. Bond of the _____

- 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14, 27
- Romans 12:10
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Hebrews 10:25

IV. Friendship Meets _____

A. _____ Needs

- Hebrews 13:1-3, 16

B. _____ Needs

- Hebrews 10:23-24, 36-39

V. Friendship Shows _____ to Others

- John 13:34-35
- 1 John 4:7-8, 11, 19-21

VI. Friendship Restores the _____

A. Friendship With _____

- Romans 15:7
- Romans 16:16
- Colossians 3:13
- Ephesians 4:32
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- 1 Peter 3:8
- 1 John 1:7

B. Friendship With _____

- John 15:14-15
- James 2:23



September 6, 2026

BACKGROUND:

Paul's final words to Timothy reveal how he faced death with confidence and hope. Despite suffering for the sake of Christ, facing opposition to the gospel, and the failure of some of his friends, Paul remained steadfast in his trust in God's presence, faithfulness, and grace. He encouraged Timothy to remain faithful to Christ until the very end, confident that God would sustain all who place their trust in Him.

DIGGING DEEPER:

2 Timothy 4:9-16: Abandonment, Forgiveness, and Restoration

"For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica..." (verse 10)

Demas had previously served alongside Paul (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24) but now has abandoned him. While Crescens and Titus appear to have departed for ministry purposes, Demas seems to have left because his affections were drawn to the world rather than to Christ.

1. How can you guard against allowing worldly pursuits and priorities to compete with your devotion to Christ and His calling on your life?

"Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." (verse 11)

While Paul is grateful for Luke's loyalty, his mention of Mark is especially significant. Earlier, Paul and Barnabas disagreed sharply because Mark had withdrawn from their missionary journey (Acts 15:37-39). However, Paul now considers him a valuable ministry partner.

2. Our failures do not have to define us. God's grace restores those who repent and faithfully return to Him. Share a time when you failed someone, or someone failed you? Can you describe when you experienced a relationship that was broken but later restored through God's grace?

"At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!" (verse 16)

Despite being abandoned, Paul reflected the heart of Christ by extending forgiveness rather than resentment.

3. When disappointed, hurt, or offended, is your natural response to forgive or assign blame? How does this affect your relationship with God and others?

2 Timothy 4:14-15: Discernment and Protection

"Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message." (verse 14-15)

Rather than seeking personal revenge against Alexander, Paul entrusted justice to God. He also warned Timothy to exercise discernment and protect both himself and the gospel message.

4. Discuss how we have previously seen Paul commit those who have harmed him to God rather than take revenge himself?

5. How can you exercise wisdom and discernment while protecting yourself and the message of the gospel from harmful influences? In what ways has this proven successful?

2 Timothy 4:17-18: God's Faithfulness and Deliverance

"But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me ... The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom." (verse 17-18)

Paul's confidence didn't rest in people, but in God's presence, strength, and faithfulness.

6. In what ways have you experienced God's strength, rescue, or sustaining grace during difficult seasons of life? How has this strengthened your faith and how have you been able to use these experiences to show Christ to others?

TAKING IT HOME:

2 Timothy 4:19-22: Final Greetings

Paul's final greetings remind us that Christian ministry is never meant to be done alone. God calls His people to serve, encourage, and support one another. We see this when he asks Timothy to extend his greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, faithful coworkers who risked their lives for him (Romans 16:3-4). Also, to the household of Onesiphorus, who faithfully encouraged and supported him (2 Timothy 1:16-18). He shared updates and his gratitude for several of his ministry partners.

7. How do you intentionally encourage and show appreciation for those serving alongside you? How do you in turn help carry their burdens?

"The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." (verse 22)

Paul's final words emphasize the presence of Christ and the sufficiency of God's grace. Two things that carried him through his many ministry challenges.

8. How have you experienced Christ's presence recently? In what area of your life are you most dependent on God's grace today?