

## The Temple Theory in the Book of Daniel INTRODUCTION

Paul now turns from the solemn public charge and his own example of finished faithfulness to very personal, practical matters. These closing verses show both the cost of standing for the gospel and the ordinary human realities that accompany even the greatest servants of Christ. They also reveal the sustaining presence of the Lord when human companions fall away.

### EXPOSITION

#### Verses 9-13

The repeated command to “make every effort” (σπουδάζω – spoudazō) carries urgency (4:21). Winter travel would soon become difficult, and Paul’s situation was growing more isolated. Demas, a once faithful companion (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24), had deserted Paul. Why? Persecution is not mentioned, but it is not out of the realm of possibility. The stated reason is that he loved this present world. The contrast with those who love Christ’s appearing (4:8) is intentional and sobering. Loving the present age pulls a person away from faithful endurance.

Crescens and Titus had left for legitimate ministry assignments in Galatia and Dalmatia. Their absence was not betrayal, yet it left Paul with few companions. Only Luke remained. The request for Mark is especially encouraging. Years earlier Mark had withdrawn from the work (Acts 13:13, 15:37-39), yet Paul now calls him “useful to me for service.” This models grace-driven restoration: past failure does not permanently disqualify someone when they realign with the truth.

The practical items (the cloak for warmth in the cold prison, the books, and especially the parchments, likely portions of the Hebrew Scriptures or apostolic writings) reveal that, even in chains, Paul continued feeding his mind on the Word.

Timothy’s journey would involve real risk and sacrifice, yet Paul asked it because partnership in the gospel includes meeting one another’s genuine needs.

Normally when we think of Scripture, we think of theological content or instruction. But we need to understand that the Epistles are not written as theological treatises, but as personal letters with theological and spiritual guidance. The personal nature of the letters leads to the authenticity.

#### Verses 14-15

Alexander had actively opposed the apostolic message and caused Paul significant damage. Paul does not seek personal revenge but leaves repayment with the Lord. But he warns Timothy to stay alert. Opposition to sound teaching often comes from within or near the assembly, and vigilance remains necessary.

**Verses 16-18**

During Paul's preliminary hearing, no human defender stood with him; everyone deserted. Yet he prays that this failure is not held against them, reflecting the same mercy he himself had received. The Lord, however, stood with him and strengthened him. The result was that the gospel proclamation reached its intended goal, even through Paul's imprisonment. "Rescued out of the lion's mouth" likely refers to deliverance from immediate execution, allowing further testimony.

Verse 18 expresses settled confidence: the Lord will rescue him from every evil deed and bring him safely into the heavenly kingdom. This is not a promise of avoiding physical death (Paul has already said his departure is near, 4:6), but assurance of ultimate deliverance into glory. The doxology returns all attention to God, consistent with the pattern throughout the letter.

This is an important point to observe. The promise of deliverance in our time is not physical or temporal, but eternal. Our airwaves are filled with false promises made by preachers and theologians that state that you should expect God to deliver you from distress (financial, health, etc.), but that is never stated in Scripture.

Instead, we are to rely on the promises of God to have a proper perspective to get us through our problems and endure. But this does not mean that we have no escape from the temporary perils of this world. What does God give to help us in this world? Each other.

**Verses 19-22**

Final greetings show the network of faithful believers who continued serving. Prisca and Aquila had long partnered with Paul. Onesiphorus's household receives special mention for earlier refreshment.

Practical notes about Erastus and the sick Trophimus remind us that ministry includes real human limitations. This also demonstrates that Paul did not have "the gift of healing."

The repeated urgency to come before winter underscores Paul's isolation and the approaching hardship of cold weather and closed sea lanes.

The letter closes with personal and corporate blessing: "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." It returns full circle to the sustaining reality of grace that opened the epistle.

#### THEOLOGICAL IMPACT AND APPLICATION (FOR THIS SECTION)

These verses display the cost that Paul faced (loneliness, opposition, physical need, and human failure), yet they also display the sufficiency of the Lord's promises.

Demas loved the present world and deserted; Paul loved Christ's appearing and finished his course. Mark's restoration shows that grace makes usefulness possible again. Alexander's opposition did not silence the gospel. Human desertion at the first defense did not stop the proclamation. The Lord stood with Paul and strengthened him, and He will bring Paul and every believer safely to the heavenly kingdom.

For us, the principles are clear. We may face functional abandonment or active resistance, yet we are never truly alone. We guard against loving this present age more than the coming King. We pursue diligence in helping one another, graciously restore those who error, meet practical needs, and warn against those who oppose sound teaching. We leave justice with the Lord and rest in His promise of ultimate deliverance.

Grace remains the atmosphere in which we serve. We live and serve in response to all that God has done and all that we have already received.

#### SUMMARY OF 2 TIMOTHY

We began in Chapter 1 with Paul's apostolic authority, Timothy's "sincere" faith, belief that is based upon substance rather than meaningless speculation. Timothy is fully persuaded and is substantive; his faith isn't subjective but the real, objective content rooted in God's truths. Timothy is called to fan into flame the responsibility entrusted to him, and given the command not to be ashamed but to suffer for the gospel while guarding the apostolic doctrines.

Chapter 2 laid out patterns for endurance: strength in grace, entrusting truth to faithful men, suffering as a good soldier, athlete, and farmer, and the trustworthy statement that links dying with Christ to living with Him, enduring to reigning, and God's unchanging faithfulness even when we are faithless. We saw the call to handle the word accurately, flee youthful impulses, pursue righteousness, and gently correct opponents so God may grant them a change of mind.

Chapter 3 warned of difficult times in the last days, self-centered people holding a form of godliness yet denying its true ability, and contrasted them with Timothy's charge to continue in the Scriptures he had known from childhood. Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness so the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4 delivered the climactic charge: preach the word, be ready in season and out, reprove, rebuke, exhort with patience and instruction. Paul modeled his own

finished course and looked forward to the crown of righteousness for all who love Christ's appearing.

Throughout the letter Paul, repeatedly returns to the same core realities:

- Eternal life and forgiveness are already ours through believing the gospel proposition: Jesus Christ, God in flesh, died for the sins of the world, was buried, rose again, and gives eternal life as a gift to all who believe this message. No additional step or mechanic is required.
- Rewards are distinct and earned through faithful stewardship and endurance. They are evaluated at the "bema" and motivate joyful, grace-driven service.
- Spiritual maturity is sustained doctrinal conviction held true under pressure, resulting in alignment with our identity in Christ. Believers who walk according to the flesh do not obtain what they could have had; they will have hardship in this life, but they never lose sonship, eternal life, or fellowship with God.
- The goal of all instruction is love flowing from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith. We live godly lives not to gain favor with God but because by grace we have already obtained His favor.
- Opposition, loneliness, and hardship are normal, yet the Lord stands with us and will bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.

Best practices for studying 2 Timothy (or any Epistle) on your own:

1. Read the whole letter repeatedly in one sitting to catch the flow and themes.
2. Observe the text carefully: observe truth, contrasts, instructions, repeated words (faith, grace, endure, guard, preach, appear), and personal examples.
3. Write questions down and attempt to answer (or ask).
4. Verify interpretations by cross-referencing other clear passages rather than importing external systems.
5. Ask how the original readers in Ephesus and Asia Minor would have heard these words amid false teaching and pressure from the surrounding culture.
6. Apply by asking where your own thinking or living needs realignment with your identity in Christ.

The letter closes as it opened, with grace. Paul has modeled the path: fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith. He now passes the baton to Timothy and to every believer who will take it up. May we love His appearing, guard the deposit, proclaim the Word, and one day hear the Lord say, "Well done." To Him be the glory forever and ever.