



Second Timothy We're All Pastors: Equipping the Next Generation

Follow the Cove on Facebook for weekly updates, podcasts or post a question. Search for CRB Cove and “like” it to share with your friends!

“Following Jesus: Paul’s Seven Last Words”

II Timothy 4:6-22

January 13, 2019

Dr. James D. Smith III

Theme: Finishing well! In the thirty years since his Damascus Road conversion (Acts 9:1-19, 22:6-21, 26:12-18) Paul had seen it all. To his most difficult mission congregation – the Corinthians – he recounted trials and triumphs to date (II Cor. 11:21-12:10).

Now, approaching martyrdom, Paul’s exhortation to Timothy echoes a familiar life call: “Be imitators of me, as I also am of Christ” (I Cor. 11:1). In the final countdown, what would Jesus do? Paul navigates “end of life/season issues” as his martyred Master had: facing anguish with truth, grace – and heavenly hope!

Context: There was a major fire in Rome (AD 64) under the imperial rule of Nero. Seeking a scapegoat (as the historian Tacitus admits), he blamed the Christians.

The resultant persecution saw both Peter and Paul imprisoned and martyred – the latter most likely (Eusebius) by beheading. In II Timothy, Paul takes stock of his life, offering wisdom for those to come (1:6-7, 2:1-2, 11-13, 3:16, 4:2, 18). WDJD>WDPD!

Outline:

JESUS: "It is finished" (Lk 23:46) Recognized, accepted, mission accomplished

PAUL: "I have finished..." (II Tim. 4:6-7) Time has come, good fight, kept faith. Still...

JESUS: "Why have you forsaken me?" (Mt 27:46, Mk 15:34) Feeling so very alone

PAUL: "Demas has forsaken me..." (4:9-10) The first name mentioned. Still...

JESUS: "Father, forgive them..." (Lk 23:34) Grace, forgiveness for the deceived

PAUL: "May it not be held against them..." (4:14-16) Be wise, let God judge.

JESUS: "Behold your son, behold your mother" (Jn 19:26-27) We are family, Church!

PAUL: "Eubulus, Claudia and all the brothers greet you" (4:21, names *passim*)

JESUS: "I thirst – bring water" (Jn 19:28) Physically tapped, drained, exhausted

PAUL: "I'm flat – bring *phailonen* and *biblia*..." (4:13) Mentally, need resourcing

JESUS: "Father, into your hands I offer my spirit; almost paradise!" (Lk 23:43-46)

PAUL: "Next up: a crown of righteousness, which the Lord awards..." (4:8)

PAUL: "So, Timothy, do your best to come quickly, before winter" (4:9, 21-22)

Takeaway: In mid-November, all were invited to hear Paul's music: "I'll Be Seeing You," "Thanks for the Memory," "You and Me Against the World," "When It's All Been Said and Done" are possible – "My Way" is not. *It's Jesus' way – yes, the High Way!* Paul's baton-pass legacy to Timothy, Mark (Acts 15>II Tim 4:11) and us – priceless!

Next Cove:

Date: January 20, 2019

Introduction to Titus