

Pain

2 Timothy 4:9-13

August 25, 2019 PM

HDBC

In Chuck Swindoll's book [Come Before Winter](#), named for the line in verse 21 of our text, he calls this passage **dungeon talk**. These words were written by a man locked away in a dungeon beneath the streets of ancient Rome. In that black, cold dungeon, a lonely prisoner whose days were numbered wrote a letter, his last letter, to his friend Timothy.

There is a chill in that dungeon. Fear resonates through its hallways. It's damp. To the rodents and bugs it is paradise. But to a man, it is torturous. There is the rattle of heavy chains. The periodic screams of those being tortured. The deep groans of those who are slowly dying.

Here, we find the great champion of grace. The man who in God's strength, turned his world upside down. And now he is at the end. With quill and ink and an old piece of parchment he scratches out his final words. He will close this letter with his signature focus on grace. But, first he writes personal words.

In them we see a side of Paul that is not seen in most of his other writings. It is comforting to discover that this missionary giant is human. He has feelings, needs, pain, etc. He's like us.

I find that quite encouraging. Though he was a theological giant, he still needed to study the Word. Though he was a fearless missionary, he still needed to be encouraged. Though he was a man with a single-hearted devotion to the Lord, he still longed for human companionship.

Four Things Revealed in these final words. (Read 9-22)

Pain in Paul's Life

Pressures in Paul's Life

People in Paul's Life

Passion in Paul's Life

Tonight we will have time only for point number one.

The Pain in Paul's Life

1. Relational

A. The Request

Two times at the close of the letter Paul seeks the personal companionship of Timothy. At the beginning and at the end of this section Paul pleads with Timothy to make every effort to come to him.

In verse 9 - *Make every effort to come soon* - *Do your best, Use diligence.* Get here quickly. I can't wait to see you. Paul knew that his time was short, but thought if Timothy hurried, he could make it. Paul wanted to see him one more time in this life.

Verse 21 - *come before winter.* Paul now gets even more specific. Make sure that you leave in time to arrive before winter. Dangerous to travel in winter. The cold of winter would be made more bearable if his friend were there.

B. The Reason

He was lonely. Almost everyone has left. Some have deserted, others have gone to other mission posts. He pleaded with Timothy to come . . . soon! The Greek construction implies speed and zeal. Paul believed he did not have much time and he needed the fellowship of this young minister. Paul was not a lone ranger Christian.

Eight names mentioned in these few verses. We'll look at seven tonight. In their commentary on 2 Timothy, David Platt, Danny Akin and Tony Merida add a chart for these eight men.

Five are + + (started strong and ended strong)

One is + - (started strong but ended poorly).

One is - + (started poorly but ended strong)

One is - - (started and ended poorly)

1) Demas. (+ -)

Shortened form of “Demetrius”. Demetrius who was a silversmith in Ephesus. Also in **3 John 12** as one who had received a good testimony from all those who knew him.

Paul commended Demas as a “fellow-worker” in **Philemon 24** and mentions him in **Colossians 4**. Paul certainly considered him a fellow-soldier and disciple of Christ. But, no longer!

Deserted Paul because he was too much in love with the present world. Reminds me of the woman whose remains were found when excavating Pompeii.

When Pompeii was being excavated, there was found a body that had been embalmed by the ashes of Vesuvius. It was that of a woman. Her feet were turned toward the city gate, but her face was turned backward toward something that lay just beyond her outstretched hands.

The prize she was reaching for was a bag of pearls. Life was beyond the gates but she could not leave behind her pearls.

2) Crescens. (+ +)

Gone to Galatia. Don't know anything else about him.

3) Titus. (+ +)

To Dalmatia. No other information about Titus' ministry there.

4) Luke (+ +)

Of Paul's trusted companions, only Luke remained. He had been with Paul during his earlier Roman imprisonment. Shows Luke's personal devotion to Paul. As a physician he would have been useful in ministering to Paul's physical problems related to his imprisonment.

5) Mark. (- +)

The “apostle of grace” now is seen showing grace. He had earlier refused to allow Mark to come on his second mission trip. He would have no part in taking this “quitter.” But over time, things changed.

6) Tychicus. (+ +)

Native of the province of Asia. Traveled with Paul on his third mission trip. Likely was the courier who delivered the letters to Colossae and Ephesus. Was probably the carrier of this letter and would replace Timothy in Ephesus and minister in his absence.

7) Carpus. (+ +)

Believer from Troas. Do not know how or when Paul left his cloak there. Clearly there were a number of people with whom Paul ministered and served. These are but a few. Paul needed relationships. He got lonely.

Paul's pain during those last few days was **Relational**. He needed friends!

2. Physical (13)

Paul wanted Timothy to come also to bring some things. His instructions give an indication of the route Timothy would be expected to take.

Leave Ephesus, journey to **Troas**, cross the **Agean Sea**, follow the **Ignatian Way** through **Macedonia**, cross the **Adriatic Sea** and proceed to **Rome**. It would be a difficult trip, but Paul knew Timothy would come.

Need for the cloak. It was beginning to get cool in Rome. Winter was coming. Paul's hope was for Timothy to arrive ahead of it. And with him, would come Paul's coat.

Heavy, wool garment to protect him from the winter cold. Sleeveless and made of a single piece of heavy material. Similar to what we might call a poncho. The cold winds would pass through the underground corridors of the Mamertine Prison, chilling the bones of the great apostle. It was apparently the only coat Paul had.

His pain was **relational** and **physical**.

3. Spiritual

The books, especially the parchments.

The **books** would be the scrolls, probably the Old Testament Scriptures. The Greek word is *biblia*, from which we get the word Bible. The **parchments** were books made from animal skins. We do not know the contents of the parchments. Could have been commentaries. Maybe some of Paul's own writings.

The old preacher can be happy with his books! (Robertson) I can identify. I love my books.

We do know that Paul, even with death looming, was interested in learning, studying, reading. He was constantly expanding his understanding. He wanted to keep on growing in the Lord. Always something new to learn.

Interesting parallel account in the history of William Tyndale. In captivity in 1535 wrote to the governor to beg for warmer clothing, a woolen shirt and, above all, his Hebrew Bible, Grammar, and Dictionary.