

"THE TESTIMONY OF TRUE LEADERSHIP"

2 Timothy Chapter 4

I) TESTIMONY OF A FAITHFUL LEADER (v1-8)

(v1) JESUS the Judge – Three judgments:

- #1 – Judgment of the **CHURCH** – 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
- #2 – Judgment of the **NATIONS** – Matthew 25:31-33
- #3 – Judgment of the **GREAT WHITE THRONE** – Revelation 20:11-15

(v2) Every Pastor's testimony – "PREACH THE WORD!"

- **Convince** – Deal with sin; correct wrong behavior or false doctrine.
- **Rebuke** – deal with sin and its penalty leading people to repentance.
- **Exhort** – Encourage, comfort.
- **Longsuffering** – Don't quit; forbearance.
- **Teaching** - Instruction from scripture.
- **Sound doctrine** – Healthy, to be uncorrupt, wholesome.

Warren Wiersbe writes regarding the pastor's obligation to the proclamation of God's Word: "We must not simply tell Bible stories, relate interesting illustrations, or read a verse and forget it. True preaching is the explanation and application of Bible doctrine. Anything else is just religious speechmaking."

(v3-4) Testimony of the last days compromised Church:

- Will **NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE** – the false church will **reject biblical doctrine**.
- Will embrace a doctrine of their **OWN DESIRES** (Gk. *epithumia*) denotes **coveting**.
- What are **ITCHING EARS** – (Gk. *knetho*) **to scratch, tickle – desiring entertainment not education**.
- Will **continuously turn away from the truth** – they will believe lies.
- Will **follow stories, fiction and fables** (Gk. *muthos*) – According to the Random House Dictionary of Synonymous Words for FABLE are fiction fabrication and figment – which suggest a story that is without basis in reality. Fiction suggests a story invented and fashioned either to entertain or to deceive. Whereas, fabrication applies to a false but carefully invented statement or series of statements in which some truth is sometimes interwoven, the whole usually intended to deceive. Figment – applies to a tale, idea, or statement often made up to explain, justify, or glorify oneself. Peter writes in **2 Peter 1:16** – "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

(v7) (a) FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT! - **Be a wrestler for Christ!** – **Ephesians 6:12** – *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* **(b) FINISH THE RACE!** – **Be a runner for Christ!** – **Philippians 3:12-14** - *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* **(c) KEEP THE FAITH!** – **Be a guardian for Christ!** - **Jude 3-4** - *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

(v8) What is the CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS? The word “crown” speaks of a victory wreath or garland placed upon a the head of a dignitary, a victorious military officer or a winning athlete; whereas, “righteousness” describes the nature of the crown. John MacArthur writes, “Believers receive the imputed righteousness of Christ (justification) at salvation (Rom. 4:6, 11). The Holy Spirit works practical righteousness (sanctification) in the believer throughout his lifetime of struggle with sin (Rom. 6:13, 19; 8:4; ph. 5:9; 1 Pet. 2:24). But only when the struggle is complete will the Christian receive Christ’s righteousness perfected in Him (glorification) when he enters heaven.” The Bible also declares that believers can receive the “**crown of life**” (James 1:12); the “**crown of rejoicing**” (1 Thess. 2:19); the “**imperishable crown**” (1 Cor. 9:25); and the “**crown of glory**” (1 Pet. 5:4).

III) TESTED TESTIMONIES (v9-22) (Friends & Foes)

(v9-10) Foe: DEMAS – a world lover – Christian beware! - **1 John 2:15-17** - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

(v11-13) Friends: LUKE - A “fellow laborer” of the apostle Paul (Philemon 24) and the probable author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. By profession he was a physician (Col 4:14). Luke apparently was a humble man, with no desire to sound his own horn. More than one-fourth of the New Testament comes from his pen, but not once does he mention himself by name. He was a careful historian, both by his own admission (Luke 1:1-4), and by the judgment of later history. **MARK** - An occasional associate of Peter and Paul, and the probable author of the second gospel. Information about Mark’s later life is dependent on early church tradition. Writing at an early date, Papias (A.D. 60-130), whose report is followed by Clement of Alexandria (A.D. 150-215), tells us that Mark served as Peter’s interpreter in Rome and wrote his gospel from Peter’s remembrances. Writing at a later date (about A.D. 325), the church historian Eusebius says that Mark was the first evangelist to Egypt, the founder of the churches of Alexandria, and the first bishop of that city. **TYCHICUS** - A faithful friend fellow worker and messenger of the apostle Paul (Eph 6:21-22; Col 4:7-8). (Nelson’s Bible Dictionary)

(v14-16) Foe: ALEXANDER the coppersmith – Became hostile to Christianity, to Paul and was “delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme” (1 Timothy 1:20).

(v17-18) A friend forever: The LORD JESUS CHRIST – Our LORD will deliver us from the mouth of the lion, Peter warns us in **1 Peter 5:8-11** - *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.* Daniel experienced this warfare spiritually and physically as presented in Daniel chapter 6.

(v19-22) Paul’s special greetings to fellow believers and blessing for Timothy. Amen.

- Suggested memory verses for 2 Timothy: 1:7; 2:15; 3:16-17; 4:7.