



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Grace Be With You

This past Sunday we concluded our series on the pastoral epistles. 2 Timothy 4:9-22 are the last recorded words of Paul in the Bible. In that Roman prison awaiting execution, was a man who bore on his body the brand marks of Jesus. During his ministry, he had often been persecuted. He had been betrayed by other believers. He faced intense opposition from those within the church and from those without. During these last days, with the exception of his faithful friend, Dr. Luke, Paul was alone. From an earthly perspective he had been treated unfairly and had every right to be bitter and angry. However, in this final chapter of the last letter he wrote, we don't sense any bitterness. Also, you don't even get a hint of selfishness. What we do see, however, is a man who had been so deeply impacted by God's grace through Jesus Christ that it was his driving motivation in his last days on earth. May this be true of us! In these final words, Paul demonstrates what grace-filled living looks like in the life of a believer who faithfully walks with God. We see Paul being willing to forgive others. We see him thinking of others even though he is surrounded by his own challenges. We see Paul caring deeply about faithfully proclaiming the Good News of Jesus until God calls him home. We also see him demonstrating a spirit of gratitude rather than a spirit of entitlement. All of these characteristics were demonstrated because he was a man who lived a grace-filled life. To learn more, I encourage you to get online and listen to the message. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Do I have a right understanding of God's grace through Jesus Christ and what that means for my life?** Do you understand that you are accepted by God solely on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ that was applied to your account? You did nothing to earn it!
- **Is there evidence of grace-filled living in my life?** Are you growing in grace? If so, how are you demonstrating grace in your actions and words?

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