

*9Make every effort to come to me soon; 10for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. 12But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. 14Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.*

*16At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. 17But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. 18The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*19Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. 21Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren.*

*22The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. 2 Tim 4:9-22*

We are looking today at Paul the apostles last written words. These are the words of a man who had finished well. That didn't mean everything was working out well for him. Tradition holds that he was beheaded in Rome as a martyr, perhaps as part of the executions of Christians ordered by the Roman emperor Nero in 64 AD. Paul had settle his account with God, he was willing to suffer for the gospel. As he wrote in 2 Tim 1:12, *I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.* He knew what Jesus had said, *Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.* John 16:33 NLT Paul wrote the Philippians,

*8 I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ. Phil 3:8-9*

And earlier in this book.

*7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim 4:1-8*

Paul, we need to remember, while being great in faith was also a man, a man who had experienced loss, *I have suffered the loss of all things*, loss of family, career, home and wealth. We are looking at the end of his life and he seems to be experiencing loneliness. He writes Timothy, *9Make every effort to come to me soon; 10for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.* He had written the Corinthians of the cost of being an apostle when comparing his experience to false apostles among the Corinthian believers, *They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. 2 Cor 11:13* Paul had walked the walk.

*But whatever they dare to boast about—I'm talking like a fool again—I dare to boast about it, too. 22Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked*

*harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. 24Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. 25Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. 26I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.c 27I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. 2 Cor 11:21-27*

Then he finishes with this of his concern for the church.

*28Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. 29Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger? 2 Cor 11:28-29*

Paul asks Timothy to *come to me soon*. Some believers have left him, *Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia*. Demas has deserted Paul *loving this present world*. Paul is in prison, about to be executed and if one stays with him there would be guilt by association. Early Christians were called to deny Christ or be thrown to the lions. If a Roman citizen would say they to had the Christian faith they too could be martyred. Paul at any rate feels deserted. He writes, *Only Luke is with me*. He has some instructions, get my cloak and my books, *especially the parchments*. And bring Mark, *he is useful to me for service*. At the end of Paul and Barnabas's first missionary journey Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). For this reason Paul didn't want to take him on his next journey and thus Paul and Barnabas went separate ways. But at this point Mark has proven himself and Paul says, *he is useful*. Now Paul mentions Alexander.

*14Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. 2 Tim 4:14,15*

*(Timothy) you fight the good fight, 19keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 20Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme. 1 Tim 1:18-20*

Alexander may have testified against Paul in Rome, but we know that Paul did him *much harm*. Paul warns Timothy to, *Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching*. Alexander had *suffered shipwreck in regard to his faith*, because of false doctrine. This may have been the Jewish Alexander mentioned in Acts 19 who the crowd thought was Paul because too was a Jew. Alexander, along with Hymenaeus, in 1 Timothy 1 was guilty of blasphemy and Paul put them out of the fellowship so, *they would be taught not to blaspheme*. Was this blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, deny Christ was not of God or was he a Judizer trying to add Jewish legalism into the church, we will never know but we do know he *vigorously opposed the teaching of Paul*.

*16At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. 17But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. 18The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever*

*and ever. Amen. 2 Tim 4: 16-18*

*The cruel persecution which Nero had raised against the Christians at Rome, (in which they were worried in the skins of wild beasts, wrapped up in pitched clothes, and then chained to stakes, and set on fire to give light in the streets by night,) had taken place before this; and it is probable that many of the excellent persons above mentioned had suffered death for their religion; and that others, according to our Lord's advice, had retired to a distance from Rome, while some were so terrified that they concealed themselves; or at least had not courage to appear with him before the tribunal. For these last mentioned the apostle prays, May it not be laid to their charge — He was sensible of the danger to which his friends would have exposed themselves by appearing with him at his trial; he knew likewise the infirmity of human nature; and therefore he made great allowance for their yielding in such circumstances, and prayed that they might be forgiven, as Christ prayed his Father to forgive those who crucified him. Benson Commentary*

It is good for us to recall that while the Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom, there are also times of persecution. Jesus stated, *you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. Matt 24:9* We need to be aware we are not of this world, so the world, those living in the flesh, will not like us but also, that we have an eternal home prepared for us in Christ's kingdom is everlasting. 1 *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3* Paul wrote, 18*The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Paul was able to resist the lion of Rome (Nero, *I was rescued out of the lion's mouth*) because his trust was in the Lion of Judah. Paul wrote, *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 2 Tim 4:18* We used to sing the chorus *The Lion of Judah* this was Paul's hope and it must be ours.

*The Lion of Judah shall break every chain  
And gives us the victory again and again."*

John in Revelations writes, *one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."* Rev 5:5

*22The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. 2 Tim 4:22*