

# enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 8

## enduring faithfully

MAY 30 2021

2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

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## sermon outline NOTES

### I. Four themes of 2 Timothy (2 Timothy 4:9-22)

- A. The danger of false teaching that leads to distorting the gospel
  - 1. We should beware of what obscures the gospel [2 Timothy 2:16-18; 23-26; 4:3-4]
  - 2. We should beware of ungodliness that does not accord with sound doctrine [2 Timothy 2:16; 3:2-8]
  - 3. We should beware that some will abandon the gospel [2 Timothy 1:15; 2:16-18; 3:5; 4:4, 10]
- B. The central importance of gospel ministry according to scripture [2 Timothy 4:6-8, 18; Acts 20:24]
  - 1. We guard the gospel by getting it right and getting it out [2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2; 4:17]
  - 2. We should become well acquainted with scripture since the gospel is according to scripture [2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4]
- C. The need to endure suffering and persecution by trusting God for rescue and the power to persevere [2 Timothy 4:5]
  - 1. If we are going to live a godly life in Christ, then we will share in suffering for Christ [2 Timothy 3:12; 1:8; 2:3, 24; 4:14-15]
  - 2. We will be empowered to endure for the sake of the gospel by the power of the gospel [2 Timothy 1:10-12; 2:8-10; 1:7-8]
  - 3. God rescues us one way or another [2 Timothy 3:11; 4:18]
- D. The word-based gospel ministry is always centered on Christ and serves the purpose of discipleship
  - 1. We disciple others by focusing on knowledge, experience and coaching [2 Timothy 2:2; 4:11-13]
  - 2. We must understand that true discipleship occurs in the context of relationships [2 Timothy 1:5, 13; 16-18; 2:2; 4:11-12, 19-21]

### II. How we pursue enduring faithfulness (2 Timothy 4:9-22)

- A. Through the word of God [2 Timothy 4:13, 17; 3:15-17; 2:9]
- B. Through the reassurance of the kingdom of God [2 Timothy 4:18; 4:1; 1:1; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-8]
- C. Through a community of mutual care as the people of God [2 Timothy 4:11, 19-21; 1:16-18]
- D. Through the grace of God [2 Timothy 4:22; 1:9-10; 2:1; 2 Corinthians 12:9]

## 2 Timothy 4:9-22

Do your best to come to me soon. 10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 12 Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. 16 At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. 21 Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.

22 The Lord be with your spirit.  
Grace be with you.

## sermon reflections

1. Which of the four themes of 2 Timothy are you drawn to most? What is it about that theme you find interesting?
2. What are some ways you have witnessed the gospel being distorted or obscured? How might you combat against that?
3. How can we guard the gospel? What is one way you can keep the gospel central in your own life?
4. What is "word-based" ministry? What does it center on? What is its purpose? How do we fulfill that purpose? How do we fulfill that purpose?
5. From 2 Timothy 4:9-22, how can we pursue enduring faithfulness? What are some practical ways you can pursue enduring faithfulness?

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# reading THE letter

Making observations in a passage is the best way to become familiar with it and grasp the basic meaning. One helpful technique is to use a notebook (or separate piece of paper) and make the following observations—

- List any **People/Places**—

- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

# observations

1 How will Paul be rescued from every evil deed?

2 Tally the people Paul names based on whether they are mentioned in a positive, neutral, or negative light. What conclusions can you draw from your tally?

3 Why does God strengthen Paul?

## summary sentence

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1-2 sentences –

# paul's encouragement TO timothy



Throughout early church history, there were seasons (and locations) in which the persecution of Christians intensified. This was a reality that Paul experienced in the mid-60s AD, near the end of his ministry. Christians could be crucified, burned alive, and association with Paul, a well-known leader in the church with a target on his back, was dangerous. Because of this, Demas, who accompanied Paul during his first imprisonment (**Col. 4:14, Phil. 24**), deserted him when persecution arose **[4:9]**. Paul must have been heartbroken to see his friend and companion turn away. We see his heart for those who ran from danger in his prayer, “*May it not be charged against them!*” **[4:16]**, echoing how Jesus prayed: “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*” **[Luke 23:34]** on the cross.

Yet despite facing loneliness and grief, Paul assured Timothy that God strengthened him through his trials to share salvation with the Gentiles **[4:17]**. With a calling so important, and a God so big, he reminds Timothy there is no need for self-preservation. Christians have the promise of being with God in His heavenly kingdom **[4:18]**, so though suffering and opposition may come, believers must press on to spread the message of Christ’s work on the cross.

# paul's encouragement TO US

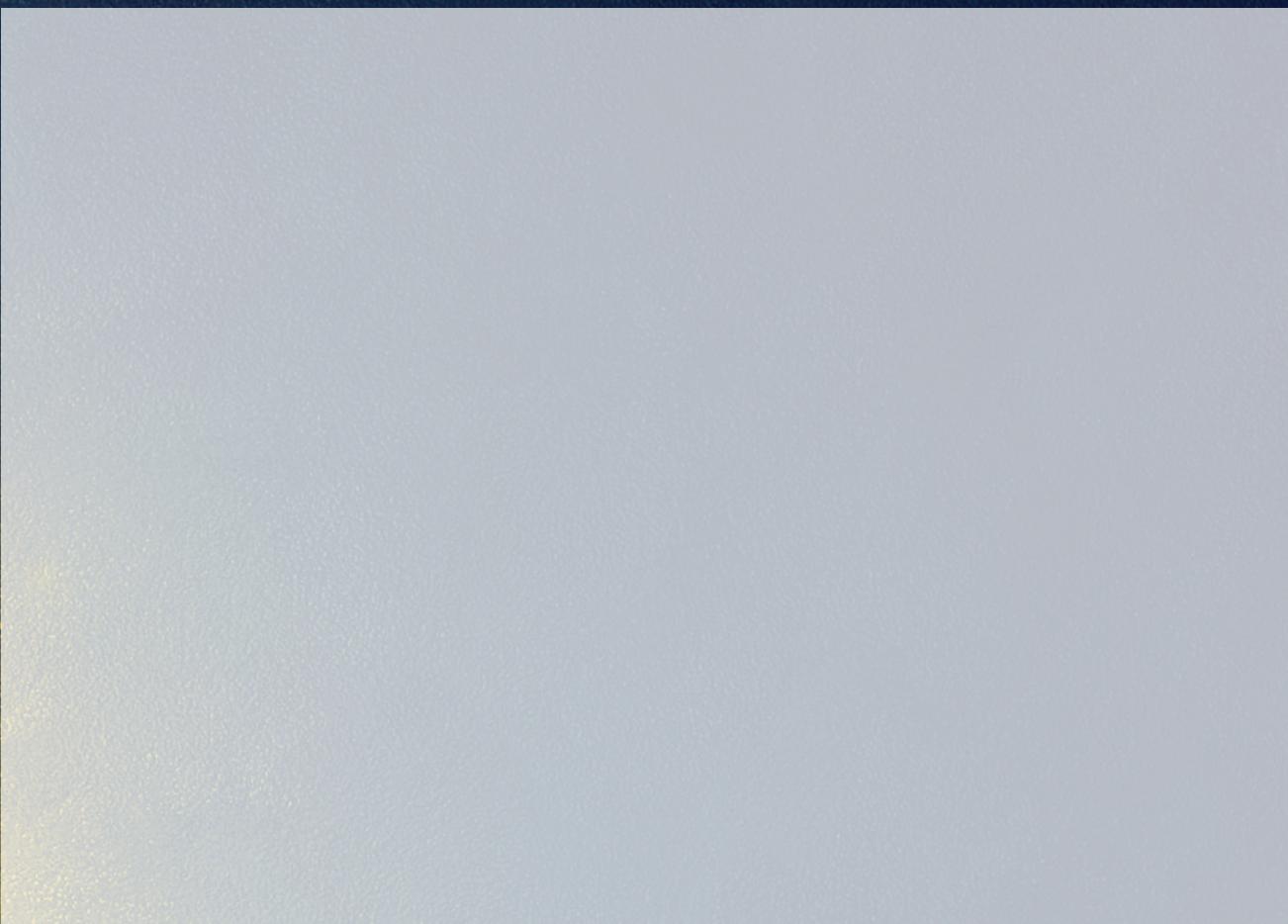
Paul wrote this letter to Timothy while awaiting his final trial, at which he expected to be found guilty and sentenced to death. Paul was at the end of his life, and yet instead of self-pity or moping, he pressed on for the sake of the gospel. That he asked for things like a cloak and books [4:13] shows just how "in the zone" Paul was. Paul says, "*But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth*" [4:17]. How often do we think this way? How often do we say, "God gave me this new job so that more people might hear the gospel" or "My son made the basketball team so that more people might hear the gospel"?

That's the convicting, but ultimately comforting message Paul leaves Timothy with: everything in our lives, whether good or bad, can and will be used for God's eternal purposes. This truth, bought for us by the blood of Christ and renewed in us by the Holy Spirit, is why in Philippians 4:11-13, Paul says he can be content no matter what he faces—everything is under our God's control! The same God who strengthened Paul promises to strengthen us so that the gospel can go out to a world that desperately needs to hear it. He promises not to waste a single moment of our lives [2 Cor. 4:16; Ps. 139:16]. Therefore, the people of God can live each day with the boldness of knowing that every moment and every situation has a divine purpose.

# presenting ourselves approved TO THE world

## responding questions

- 1 How do you respond when life gets difficult? How do you respond when life is good?



## responding questions

- 2 How can you maintain a gospel focus daily?

How would it change your current attitude or actions if you looked at your current circumstances through the lens of God's sovereignty?

