

II Timothy – The Final Days of Paul II Tim. 4:6-18

Thesis: To help us better prepare ourselves for death.

Introduction:

- A. In these final words of Paul, he acknowledges the fact that he is about to die.
 - 1. He knows that he is going to receive a great crown from God.
 - 2. Even though all of his earthly friends have forsaken Paul, he knows that God is faithful; and he has been faithful to God.
- B. Today, we will notice these final words of Paul and see what impact they can have on our lives.

I. Even though Paul's earthly friends had forsaken him, God remained faithful to him (4:9-18).

- A. There were several individuals that Paul names as those who departed from him (4:9-10, 14-15).
 - 1. Demas had forsaken Paul (4:9-10).
 - a. Demas "loved this present world" (4:10).
 - b. I Jn. 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. {16} 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. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - c. Demas had sold his soul in order to follow after the world.
 - 2. Crescens departed for Galatia (4:10).
 - 3. Titus had departed for Dalmatia (4:10).
 - 4. Alexander the coppersmith had done Paul harm (4:14-15).
 - a. I Tim. 1:18-20 (Paul had previously mentioned Alexander) - This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, {19} having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, {20} of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.
 - b. While we do not know exactly what happened, Alexander had done terrible things to Paul.
 - c. Paul says, "May the Lord repay him according to his works." (4:14).
 - 1) Paul did not take revenge on Alexander; he was waiting on the Lord to provide vengeance for him.

- 2) **Rev. 6:9-10** - When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. {10} And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
 - d. Paul also warns Timothy of Alexander and the harm that he could do to him (**4:15**).
5. Paul even says that all forsook him (**4:16**).
 - a. At his first defense, he was alone.
 - b. Paul does, however, forgive them.
 - c. “May it not be charged against them.”
- B. Even though all had forsaken Paul, God was faithful to him (**4:17-18**).**
 1. Paul acknowledges a reason why God remained faithful to him (**4:17a**).
 - a. There was still work to be done.
 - b. Even in prison, Paul was able to continue to preach the word of God.
 - c. It was because of him and his dedication that all the Gentiles would be able to hear the gospel of Christ.
 - d. **Phil. 4:22** - All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.
 2. Paul also acknowledged the faithfulness of the Lord regarding the troubles that Paul was facing (**4:17b-18**).
 - a. Even though Paul was physically alone, God delivered him.
 - b. Paul was being preserved for the kingdom of God; that is, a home in heaven.
 - c. **Phil. 3:20-21** - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, {21} who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

II. At the end of his life, Paul was ready to die (4:6-7**).**

A. Paul knew that he was about to die (4:6**).**

1. Paul had spent a great deal of time in a Roman prison.
2. He knew that his days on this earth were numbered.
 - a. **II Tim. 4:9** - Be diligent to come to me quickly;
 - b. **II Tim. 4:21** - Do your utmost to come before winter.
3. Paul was ready to die for the sake of the Lord.

B. Paul had done all that God had required of him (4:7**).**

1. He had fought the good fight.
 - a. The Christian life is often compared to warfare.
 - b. **II Tim. 2:3-4** - You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. {4} No one engaged in warfare entangles

himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

- c. Eph. 6:10-20 – “The whole armor of God.”
2. He had finished the race.
 - a. Again, the Christian life is often compared with athletics.
 - b. II Tim. 2:5 - And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
 - c. I Cor. 9:24 - Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
3. He had kept the faith.
 - a. Once Paul became a Christian, he never turned his back on God.
 - b. Acts 23:1 - Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
 - c. Paul was always faithful to God, and because of this, he was ready to die for Him.

III. Because he was prepared, Paul was ready to receive “the crown of righteousness” (4:8).

A. Paul knew that he was going to receive this “crown of righteousness.”

1. This crown is the final reward that God is going to give to Paul.
2. It is going to be is because of his faithfulness to God in this life.

B. Paul also says that we can receive this “crown of righteousness.”

1. This crown is for “all who have loved His appearing.”
2. I Cor. 15:50-58 - Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. {51} Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—{52} in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. {54} So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” {55} “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” {56} The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. {57} But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. {58} Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Conclusion: