

A Layman's Look
At
Second Timothy

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INTRODUCTION

Down through the years, there have been many who have had final last words that people have remembered. There was President Washington and his farewell address when he left the office of presidency. Other notable people have had their words saved for antiquity, as well as a few not so notable, who in their last breath, uttered words that depicted where they were going to spend eternity.

The most important last words in the whole world would be those of Jesus Christ, as He was hanging on the cross of Calvary. To His Heavenly Father, He said, ***Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*** To the thief, He said, ***Today, thou shalt be with me in Paradise.*** To His earthly mother, He called, ***Woman, behold thy son.*** To John, His disciple, He exclaimed, ***Behold thy mother.*** To a closed Heaven, and the Judge of the sin of the world, ***My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?*** To the soldiers, He said, ***I thirst.*** The Heaven and earth, He shouted, ***It is finished.*** And to His Father, He whispered, ***Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.*** No greater last words have ever been spoken since.

There is a book written by Herbert Lockyer, titled, Last Words of Saints and Sinners that has statements of those who had placed their trust in the hands of Jesus Christ and they were able to give exclamations of joy, while others, who went into eternity without the Savior moaned and shuddered as the doors of opportunity were shut on them for the final time.

Stephen, the first martyr, looked up into Heaven, seeing Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and was to exclaim, ***Lay not this charge to their charge*** (Acts 7:60). It is said that Peter, when he was taken out to be crucified, refused to be hanged in the manner as was His Savior, and asked to be hung upside down, feeling he was unworthy to die in the same manner.

In this epistle, we shall see the farewell of the Apostle Paul, giving his final and heartfelt charge to Timothy to stand fast in the faith. No such greater love could a man have for anyone than Paul had for his young mentor and the many congregations he had brought to the knowledge of the Scripture. It is my desire that in reading this account, you will see how to live for God with all your being, and to say, upon the day you are to go into eternity, ***I have fought a good fight.***

Chapter One

The Relationship of Believers To Others

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord (1:1-2). As was the custom for Paul, he opens with a greeting to whom his letter is written, followed by his salutation, marking who was the writer (II Thessalonians 3:17). It is for this reason I doubt Paul was the writer of the book of Hebrews, inasmuch as his salutation, either at the beginning or the ending of the letter mentions his name.

It is noteworthy that ***grace*** always precedes wither mercy or peace. There is no mercy, nor peace, without first obtaining the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The lordship of Christ is utmost for salvation, which makes some of these easy belief salvations doubtful. Just merely asking Jesus into your “life,” or even your heart, does not show me that there is salvation there, for everywhere in the Scriptures, we are admonished to call upon the name of the **Lord** for salvation. Even in the Old Testament we read that we are to call upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26; Psalm 116:13, 17; Zephaniah 3:9), that coincide with Romans 10:13, ***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*** Without the Lordship, there is no kinship. And with no kinship there is no grace, mercy or peace.

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also (1:3-5). Once more, Paul is not going to allow his circumstances, others, things or worry be a cause of robbing him of his joy in the Lord (cf. Philippians). No matter what may cause others to feel a burden for him, he was always encouraging them and praying for them. Here, he tells young Timothy that he is bringing prayers of thanks before the Lord for the zeal Timothy had in serving the Lord Jesus Christ, reminding him of his earlier years and the testimony of his mother and grandmother, which were predominate in leading him to the saving grace he received in Jesus Christ.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (1:6-7). The word ***fear*** is not the usual Greek word φοβία, but the word δειλία, which means to be timid or cowardice. Timothy was being called upon to recall the gift of God that was bestowed upon him, and to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God the Spirit. So often when there is someone who submits to the calling of Christ to service Him, there is a fear that brings about cowardice to proclaim the Gospel, especially when confronting someone face-to-face. “Well, I might make them mad.” It is better that they be mad when hearing the Word of God and their need for salvation, than to merrily go through life and then enter into eternal death in the pits of the lake of fire. The devil likes nothing better than one who is afraid to speak out for Christ. Earlier, Paul had written to the believers in Rome

and proclaimed, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek* (Romans 1:16). If we are ashamed to tell others of what Jesus Christ had done for us, then how much it must shame the Heavenly Father, when He sees we are failing in our responsibility to witness to others.

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles (1:8-11). Here it seems was the reason for the timidity that was facing young Timothy; he knew of the predicament Paul was in, being imprisoned for the testimony given to others, probably afraid the same was facing him somewhere in the future. Paul calls upon him to remain true to the Scriptures, and to the God above who had thrust both Paul and Timothy into the proclamation of the Gospel. Jesus saves us, calls us and gives us His purpose and grace. Physical death may await us, but eternal life is there for us with immortality and joy in the future, forever in the presence of our Lord and Savior. Herein was the calling of Paul; as a *preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles*. It must have seemed an impossible task to Paul when he first began to tell others of the faith of Jesus Christ. But when it was rejected by the Jews, it was with joy received by the Gentiles, the ethnic “dogs” that happily embraced the news that they also could be saved. And Paul reminds Timothy that he need not be ashamed of the Lord or even Paul himself, but to be willing to a participant in the suffering awaiting him in the future.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (1:12). What a wonderful verse that has been set to music, and I wonder how many sing this in their service and are unaware that it speaks of the suffering and shame of Christ who was willing to suffer for us, so that we also can believe and receive salvation, not only in this present life, but throughout eternity.

Although in prison, Paul could boldly proclaim that he was willing to suffer all things for the glory of the Gospel of Christ, if it meant that others would come to know Jesus as the Savior of the world, and that such salvation was held secure in the hands of Almighty God.

Why is it today that we have so many professing Christians but not possessing Christians? They proclaim “Amen” when in the congregation, but when called upon to go out on the streets and give out tracts or witness, they become dumb and supposedly unable to speak. “But they may make fun of me. I tried once and got the door slammed in my face. I just can’t take all the persecution.” My friend, try to witness the way Paul had witnessed, despise being stoned, lashed with multiple stripes down his back, cast into a dungeon with his hands and feet shackled, after being flogged in the streets. Yet through it all, he could sing praises to God at midnight, bringing the walls and gates of the jail open, and the hardened jailer falling at his feet, asking, *Sirs, what must I do to be saved?* (Acts 16:30). The day may come when you will be called upon to either renounce

the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, or watch your spouse and children be murdered for the cause of Christ. That may face us in the future, as we draw nearer to the day when our Savior will return to take us home.

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. (1:13-14). To ***hold fast*** is to cling to with all your strength. Don't let any of the Word be trampled on by those who would pervert it. And the term ***keep*** is again to watch, i.e. be on guard (literally or figuratively); by implication, to preserve, obey, avoid:--beware, keep (self), observe, save. It is an awesome and glad responsibility we have to preserve the purity of the Word of God, and no matter how many ASV, NIV, NKJB or other so-called "bibles" they may print, when any one of them pervert the Scriptures in any form, it is apostasy; the falling away from the truth.

This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes (1:15). Wherever you have a positive in work of the Gospel, you will have opposition to its message, and such was the case with these two who resisted Paul and the message of salvation. You will recall in First Timothy, Paul said that some had turned away from the truth of the Gospel. Here we have ***all*** those in the region of Asia had deserted him. How it must have grieved the heart of Paul, when he had to mention two individuals specifically, who sought to taint the truth of the Word of God. These names are mentioned only here in the Scripture, but one could wonder if as with others who rebelled against the Word of God, such as those in Ephesus who stood up against Paul, when others turned away from the idolatrous practice of worshiping their goddess, Diana. Later in this epistle, Paul speaks of all having turned away from him, and what grief of mind this must have been to him.

The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well (1:16-18). In contrast to the two mentioned above, here is one individual who very well may have not been a born again child of God, because of Paul's mentioning of asking God to ***grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day***. Was he referring to God granting him less punishment, should he not have been saved? Truly, we see in the Scriptures that there will be degrees of punishment, just as there will be such degrees of rewards for the saints. But this man was a comfort to Paul while he was in prison, actually going so far as to seek Paul so that he could grant him aid in his state of imprisonment.

There will be those in our lifetime who, even though not a child of God, may be an aid to us and help us, while at the same time, there being those in opposition to the Word of God; especially so among the so-called "religions" that will not adhere to the truths of the King James Bible and the doctrines of Christ. They will rebel at mention of baptism by immersion only, and only after salvation. They will ridicule our stand on the necessity of partaking of the Lord's table, even going to far as to grant anyone to take of the grape juice and wafer, even though not a member of their congregation, more or less their denomination (and by the way, Baptists are **not** a denomination, but separate from all those that came out of the Romish religion).

Chapter Two

The Soldier, Gardener and Laborer

1. Perpetuation Of The Gospel:

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (2:1-2). He has to be strengthened in his mind and soul as to the tenets of the Scripture, and then to go out and train others to do the same. It is the perpetuation of the gospel, as each one reaches one. And then those two go out and reach two others. Then those four go out and reach four others. You do that enough, and in little time, millions can be won to Christ. So we see that as Christians, we have failed in our obligation, duty and privilege of committing the Gospel to others.

2. The Soldier:

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier (2:3-4). That is a fitting analogy of the “soldier of the cross.” When a man enters into the military, he has one goal in mind, and that is to protect his country and his fellow-soldiers, at all costs. At first, he enlists and is taken to “boot camp,” where he goes through rigorous training of the body, as well as the mind. He learns the capabilities of the weapons at his disposal, as well as how to use them properly. The saying in the Army is that they “tear you down to build you up again.” There is calisthenics to strengthen all the muscles, so that he will be able to run until his lungs are ready to burst, and then run some more. There are pushups, pull ups, scissor exercise where you jump up with feet together and come down with them apart and arms stretched over the head, and you do that until you think you are going to faint, and then you do some more. You sit in classes where they train you on proper hygiene, so that you won’t get frostbite in the winter, and keep from passing out in the heat of summer from heat exhaustion. Then you may be one who is called upon later in your career to teach others the same thing.

3. The Athlete:

And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully (2:5). In preparing for a race, days before, the runner will encumber himself with extra weights on his legs and body, pushing himself to run as fast as he can, so that the day of the race, without all the extra weight, he will be able to run much faster. We read in Hebrews 12:1, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.* You never see anyone in a race wearing heavy raincoat, snow boots, gloves and other winter apparel. Instead they

have on the least amount of clothing as possible. So it is when in the race; he does not start out and then run across the field to the finish line, but follows the path that is where he is supposed to run, lest he be disqualified. So it is with our witnessing to others. We must preach the Gospel according to the tenets of the Scripture, not bringing in our own man-made doctrines or man-made “bibles.” Will those who use perverted scripture have a reward coming to them when they stand before Almighty God? I think not, because they do not follow the guideline given according to the inspired Word of God.

4. The Gardener:

The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits (2:6). Do you want a good name for a son? Then name him George. The word *husbandman* is the Greek word γεωργος, where we get the word “George.” It speaks of one who is a farmer or gardener. He tills the ground, pulls up the excess weeds, plants the seed, then waters it and watches the seed sprout and grow into young plants. Such is one who is the *husbandman* in God’s service. He gives out the Word of God, sees it come to fruition, and then cultivates it as it grows. That is the propagation of the Gospel.

Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound (2:7-9). Remember, Jesus Christ is of the seed of David. That means He will one day sit on the throne of David, here on earth. Remember, He was raised from the dead. He is the only one in history who can make that claim. No other can say they by their own power were able to raise from the dead. In speaking of this power, in John 10:18, Jesus said, *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.* Confucius cannot make that claim. Mohammad cannot make that claim. No other “gods” of this world can make that claim but Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of the seed of David, the rightful heir to the throne of God.

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds... If you witness for the cause of Christ, you too will suffer trouble. Yes, and you will be the one who will be labeled the trouble maker.

Although in chains, Paul discovered that the Word of God was still being given to the Roman world, and he was able to rejoice in this knowledge. While others were sad to learn of his imprisonment, he was able to say, *What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice* (Philippians 1:18). When the Christians in Philippi heard of Paul being arrested, the first thing they thought was, “Oh me! How could such a terrible thing come upon him?” But Paul’s response was, “Oh no! Do not be sad. Because of this, many have gone out boldly and proclaimed the Word of God; some in an effort to think they will bring more persecution upon me, but others boldly preaching the Gospel, because they have a love for the lost. In either situation, I can rejoice that the Gospel is being preached.”

Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2:10). Today’s man or woman who goes out witnessing, the moment they come in contact with opposition, they think

they are under great persecution and give up easily. That was not so with Paul, for when he was beaten, stoned, thrown into the waters to drown, whatever the case, he just looked upon it as honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, and he could ***endure all things for the elect's sake***. We need to realize again what Paul said in Philippians 1:29-30, ***For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;***

30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me. What we see as conflict, he sees as an opportunity to witness to others. Can you imagine Paul, walking up to the door of the Roman palace, knocking on it and when the guard came to see who it was, he would say, "Good day sir. My name is Paul. I am an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ and would like to tell the emperor about how he may go to Heaven." Then we can imagine the guard looking at him, snickering, then breaking into laughter before he slammed the door in Paul's face. But now, here was Paul a compelling witness to the Gospel of Christ, not only to Caesar but also to the guards responsible for guarding Paul, having the opportunity to win many of them to Christ, as he had done to the jailer in Philippi at midnight, after God broke open the doors of the prison. We may never know just how effective our witness is, but have the assurance from God that it will not be in void. Isaiah 55:11 tells us, ***So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*** Notice it is the words that go forth out of the mouth of God, not ours. And His Word is in the inspired Word of God.

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself (2:11-13). When Paul and Silas were beaten and then thrown into a prison, at midnight they sang praises to God, so much so that the Lord sent an earthquake to open the doors. In Acts 5:41-42, after Peter and the apostles had been beaten and told not to preach in the name of Jesus, we read, ***And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ*** Would you count it something in which to rejoice if you were to be beaten for the name of Christ? How about the missionaries over in foreign lands who are tied to poles and burned to death? How about those who were speared through by the Auca Indians? What was the result of their ministry? We came to see those same Indians won to Christ, while others in colleges dedicated their lives to fill the void left by the departure of these saints. Remember, God's Army marches forth on its knees. The apostles prayed, then daily, they kept doing what they were doing before being beaten, witnessing for the cause of the Gospel of Christ.

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers (2:14). Paul was constantly saying, "Remember." He did not want his protégés to forget the truth of the Scriptures, nor did he want them to use excessive rhetoric in speaking to folks about salvation. Far too many so-called "preachers" of today think they have to use big flowery words and flaunt their many degrees. Some evangelists will come into town and have flyers for folks to distribute throughout the city, citing his many accomplishments, his many books and how many places he had preached before. Sometimes when one sees the mighty things they were supposed to have done, it would make a person want to take

down their shingles and give up on their ministry. But unprofitable words, as Paul said, do nothing but corrupt their standing strong in the Word of God.

5. The Teacher:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2:15). This is perhaps one of the better known verses of the Scripture, and unfortunately, today is not much heeded by Christians in our world of “modern” religions. To divide the word of truth is to “dissect” it to get to the truth. It is like a surgeon who knows there is a tumor in a patient, but has to dissect the area to get a portion of the tumor to see if it is malignant or benign. That is what we are to do with the Word of God. We are to do as did the Bereans in the days of the apostles, and ***searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*** (Acts 17:11).

The teacher of the Word must be one who diligently studies for correct knowledge of what it says. There is nothing worse than sitting in a classroom where you know from listening to the instructor, and know they were not prepared. It is even worse when it is someone trying to teach a Bible lesson. When I used to teach a Sunday school class of sixth grade boys, I could always tell if I was losing their attention, when I had not prepared during that week. But oh the difference, when during the week, I prayed, read the Bible on that lesson, prepared audio and visual material, took time to memorize the main verses for that lesson and then prayed some more. Those were the Sundays that I saw young boys come to a greater knowledge of the Scriptures and many of them turn to Jesus Christ for forgiveness of their sins. The Boy Scout motto holds so true when you are the teacher: “Be Prepared.”

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness (2:16). Profane is another word for blasphemous, irreverent, sacrilegious, or just plain old wickedness. And once more, vain means a “soap bubble,” something that is shiny, but soon bursts and is there no longer. This kind of teaching leads someone further from the truth into ungodliness.

There has recently been a book written, titled, *Conversations With God*, in which the author acts as God in the book, answering questions from young people, but leading them against the truth of the Bible. For example, one girl poses the question "I am living with my boyfriend. My parents say that I should marry him because I am living in sin. Should I marry him?" His reply is, "Who are you sinning against? Not me, because you have done nothing wrong." It is profanity and blasphemous, totally contradictory from what the Bible says. This kind of teaching and writing is the ultimate in ungodliness. Every parent should warn their children to stay away from such material.

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some (2:17-18). A canker is a blight, a pestilence or a cancer. It is no good and eats through the flesh until the person is destroyed and dies. And again, we see two individuals Paul mentioned who sought to lead others astray from the truth of the Bible. That is what happens today in our “modern” bibles, when they change words like “Sodomy” and make it read “temple prostitute.” But they can’t argue with what the King James says in Romans 1:27 about ***...men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is***

unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. This shows that homosexuality is wrong and a sin, just as living in open sin outside the bonds of marriage is an abomination in the sight of God.

And what was the error of these two men? ***Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*** The error of these men was that they were teaching false doctrine, stating that these Christians who were still alive had missed the resurrection and now had to endure the tribulation. There are those today who will say the same thing, but even worse, are saying that there will be no resurrection of the dead in Christ. But the Bible teaches contrary to this lie. There is to be a resurrection, first of the dead in Christ at the rapture, which we shall see later, and then the resurrection of the damned, who will stand before the Great White Throne of God's judgment and be eternally condemned for their rejection of Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of all. They will bow before Jesus Christ and ***every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*** (Philippians 2:11). If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you too, along with Satan and his evil emissaries, will bow before Jesus Christ and confess that He is Lord. You will either do it at the judgment or you can do it now and receive Him into your heart, before it is eternally too late.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity (2:19). Can we as Christians ever lose our salvation? Our eternal destiny does not lie in our hands, but in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember John 10:28-29? ***And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*** The moment you are stronger than either Jesus Christ or Almighty God, then and only then can you lose your salvation. And Ephesians 1:13 says, ***In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.*** So you have the power of the godhead holding your secure and ***...the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption*** (Ephesians 4:30). It is a wonderful promise that God has given us, that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

The seal was a mark of authority or ownership, and under penalty of death, there was no one who could tamper with the seal of the owner of the property. It was given to the most trustworthy of servants to guard and protect, and here, the most trustworthy servant is the Holy Spirit of promise. It is the contract or deed, showing that we belong to only God. What a sure foundation on which to stand for now and for eternity.

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour (2:20). Just as there will be degrees of punishment given to those who rejected Christ, so there will be degrees of rewards for the Christian's service to the Lord. We read in First Corinthians 3:11-15, ***For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any***

man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Do you realize that there will be some little old ladies, who have been bound to their beds or wheelchairs, and they shall receive greater rewards than many of these so-called television “evangelists,” simply because the ladies can do seemingly nothing for the pastor and congregation, but they can be there in their homes, praying day after day that the Lord will endue the pastor with power in his preaching? While these big shot preachers with immaculate glass chapels and golden bathroom sockets and fixtures, they will stand before God, dumb, because they were anticipating large rewards and find that they have received very little, because their “ministry” was for self-glory, not for the glory of Jesus Christ. They sit there in their clean and tidy offices and chairs, thinking that those who approach them ought to kiss their ring, but one day they will bow before the Lord Jesus Christ, acknowledging that all their works are for nothing. What kind of reward do we expect for our paltry service to the Lord?

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work (2:21). This is the closest you will see in the Bible where there is anything remotely close to the use of the word “purgatory.” But here, it is in this lifetime, not after death. The word ***purge*** means to thoroughly cleanse, eliminate, flush out. We are to flush out everything that makes us unfit for the Master’s purpose.

The ***vessel*** here is not some beautiful sculpted bowl, but the every day pot that was used around the home. Remember how Jesus took the battered pots, had them filled with water and then taken before the leader of the wedding feast? He had made it ***fit*** for honor. That is what he does to us. We are unworthy to be of service, but He in His infinite love and wisdom takes us and makes us worthy vessels “fit” for the Master’s use.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2:22). In First Timothy 6:12, along with ***flee*** and ***follow*** we have ***Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*** There is a battle going on for the souls of men, women and children across our world, and we are to enter into the battle and snag souls from the pit of Hell before it is too late.

Once more we see the value of a ***pure heart***, the same word used for ***purge*** in verse twenty-one. We are to keep ourselves clean from the filth and sin of the world. We are to be what God calls a ***chaste virgin*** (II Corinthians 11:22), one who has kept clean from the sin and decay of worldly lusts. That is why we are to turn and run away, as fast as our feet can carry us, so that we don’t fall into the snares of the adulterous woman so mentioned in the book of Proverbs. Instead we are to follow that which is right, to the faith we have in Christ, the love we have for the Lord and for the lost, and ever seeking to bring the peace of God to their hearts as well as the God of peace to their soul.

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will (2:23-26). Paul closes out this section by again warning of the dangers of debating the Word of God and its authenticity. To question the integrity of the Scriptures is dangerous ground

and one that can lead to strife or contention among the brethren. It is the action so taken in the cartoon showing a group of men kneeling around the ground, “arguing over split hairs,” or debating one another over issues that need not be resolved in this lifetime. The day will come when every little nit pick we try to bring up from the Scripture will come to light in the dawn of eternity. ***Then shall I know, even as I also am known*** is what Paul told the carnal Corinthian Christians. Who actually cares how many angels can sit on the head of a straight pin? What is more important, those arguments or trying to reach the lost for Christ? The devil would love trap the servants of God into menial arguments over things left alone. What is the most important thing is, how can we better win the lost to salvation? That is our job at hand.

Chapter Three

Coming Apostasy and Scripture Authority

1. Apostasy Of Unbelievers:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come (3:1). Daily, we hear of new conflicts all over the world. Nations are plotting against each other, power of the atomic bomb is exploited by godless nations that have as their goal destruction of the nation of Israel and the United States. Not only this, but earthquakes, explosion of volcanoes more prevalent, hurricanes, tornadoes and thunderstorms that are the like of nothing that preceded them, and with all the above, people dying of starvation because they lack proper nourishment, and their own nations murdering any who get in their way. With all this, we find Christians in many nations that are being confronted with death because of their faith in Christ. This all in our lifetime, so we can imagine what Paul would probably think it he was to be alive today.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away (3:2-5). What a list of the world today! And with all this, Paul says they have *a form of godliness...* Here are “religious” leaders who will do anything to keep other “religions” from being involved in proselytizing others to their belief. Get Foxe’s Book Of Martyrs and see how many millions were tortured, stretched on the rack, had red hot wires inserted under their fingernails, were impaled on poles and burned to death, simply because they would not bow to the Pope and renounce their faith in Christ and the true Bible. And today we have the Islamic terrorists beheading men and women because they will not “convert” to the Muslim religion. Their goal is to “convert” the entire world to their godless religion, at the cost of lives of those who refuse. They are what Paul said had *a form of godliness...* But again, if it is contrary to the Word of God, they are therefore denying the power that goes with the Word of God.

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (3:6-7). I wonder why God chose to use the Greek word γυνή (goony) to describe a woman? Is it because they are so gullible to anything that may be said? Why is it in the ecumenical and charismatic crowd, it is usually women who are the ones that stand up, get bleary eyes and start rambling off in unintelligent phrases that have no meaning? They can be led into false doctrine much easier than can a man. Perhaps that is why most of the Christian Science crowd that goes house-to-house to witness do it during the day, when they have a captive audience in women who are at home during those hours, and peddle their little blue books that are full of lies. I guess that is why Paul said that women are to learn Scripture at home – by their husbands, not someone who can fill their heads with nonsense.

This can also be said of some men. They will go to Bible conferences for years, but never remember anything they have heard. They shout “amen” to everything they hear, until it is something that pricks their own consciences, and then call it meddling.

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith (3:8). Here Paul gives two prime examples of those who would pervert God’s message and messenger. These were apparently the magicians called in by Pharaoh to perform their tricks when Moses called upon the Pharaoh to release the Israelites. They were ***reprobate***, or men unapproved and fakes. Through trickery they were able to perform a couple of Gods plagues, but when it came down to being plagued themselves, they called it the ***finger of God***. Friend, if those plagues were merely the finger of God, what is going to happen during the tribulation when He unleashes all His fury and wrath? And by the way, the word wrath has meaning of merriment. Do you suppose God will be finally happy to destroy all those who rejected His message of salvation? (See my book, [Look Who Is Laughing Now](#)). There will come the day when God is going to finally have enough of man’s rejection and He Himself will reject those who scoffed and laughed at His message and His ministers. You may think you are getting away with your sin, but be sure that one day, you will bow before Almighty God and have everything you did in rejecting Him brought before you, before you are finally cast into the eternal lake of fire. Would it not be much better to be before the throne of Grace as His child?

But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was (3:9). If Jannes and Jambres did not accomplish their mission, so will all the Christ rejecters be judged and condemned for their own folly. How would you like to stand before the Judge of all the earth and have all your sins revealed to everyone else standing there? It is bad enough that Christians may ***be ashamed before him at his coming*** (I John 2:28), but imagine the shame of those who all their lives figuratively spat in the face of the Savior, scoffed at Him and said, “I’ll get to heaven my own way.” How shocked they will be when, forever, they will have the word of God ringing in their ears, ***Depart from me...*** What a rejection! What contempt! To imagine the Ruler of this world, sitting there, looking at the books of “works” and then having you hurled into the lake of fire, to forever be rejected by Him.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me (3:10-11). It is almost as if Paul is readying Timothy for the fact that he too was going to have to be ready for persecutions and problems among those who hate the Gospel of Christ. Here we have another list of some of the trials, troubles and tribulations that Paul faced in his journeys to proclaim salvation. Here, it was not for an authentication of his ministry, as he had to do for the wayward believers in Corinth, but more of a mild warning to be ready for what was ahead. We find that in the verses that follow.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (3:12). Throughout Paul’s letters of encouragement to the many congregations, he was sure to let them know that it would cost them, sometimes to their very lives, to live for the Lord. In Philippians 1:28-30, he wrote, ***And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto***

you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

“You have seen what the ungodly world has done to me, because of my testimony for the Gospel. Now beware! That is what you are going to face also, as will all who live for the glory of Jesus Christ. If you believe in Him, and serve Him, you will suffer persecution.”

My friend, we here in this country know nothing of persecution. We see Muslims in other countries beheading those who are not of the Islamic religion; not simply those who are Christians, but anyone contrary to their ungodly belief style. We hear of those in many different countries who have to worship secretly, because if caught, they will be sent to prison for years, simply because their country will not tolerate any “religion,” more or less Christianity. But the day may come when your faith will be tested, whether or not you will stand tall in opposition to those who hate the Word of God and the Christ of the Gospels. God has promised that we will suffer persecution. When will it come?

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived (3:13). This is not a prophecy; it is a fact. Evil cannot stand for good to be in its opposition. If God tells us that we will face tribulation, as we read in James 1:2-4, ***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*** Just as did the apostles, we should rejoice when that day comes, that we are counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus Christ.

Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense from 1961-1973, once made this statement: “In this world it is becoming more and more unpopular to be a Christian. Soon it may become dangerous.” If this was so over thirty years ago, how much more prevalent is it today, when it is becoming a crime to carry a Bible to school, or for a nurse to pray for a patient who is dying? As someone has said, “When did it become illegal for a child to have a Bible in school, but is legal for a prisoner?” Our Constitution gives us freedom to worship, but our godless judges have taken that away. We no longer have the Ten Commandments posted in court houses, and the ACLU (American Communist Lawless Union) infringes on every right that we are guaranteed. The day will come when you and I will suffer persecution.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (3:14-15). “Keep on keeping on,” is a common phrase used by ministers who have stayed true to the Gospel. No matter what the hardships may be, keep on fighting the ***good fight of faith***. We have a battle on our hands; a battle for the souls of men, women and children who are heading to hell as if on a greased toboggan sled. As Jonathan Winters stated it, we are hanging by the thread of a spider’s web over the precipice of hell, with its flame licking around the strand. And only a loving God can keep us from plunging headlong into its fire, because someone has already taken our hell for us, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. When you think of the devastating effect sin has on you, imagine the sinless Son of God, hanging on the cross of Calvary, with the weight of the sin of the world on his shoulders, and then seeing that His own Heavenly Father had to turn His back on His Son, because of the hideousness of sin. Is it any wonder that Jesus cried out, ***My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*** (Matthew 27:46; Mark

15:34). To suffer with the weight of the sin of the world, is it little wonder Luke says Jesus shed as it were great sweat drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane? All this He did for you and for me, because He did not want us to enter into the realm of everlasting punishment.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (3:16-17). These two verses, to the unsaved world, are probably the most controversial of all the Scriptures. To deny that ***“All scripture”*** has been “God breathed,” (Gr. θεοπνευστος) is to invalidate all the claims we have in the Bible. If it is nothing but the work of man’s ideas, then we have no hope for eternal life, for it is the very existence of our hope for eternity.

To say you are going to have a Bible study, but then say, “We will not be studying doctrine,” means you are not having any kind of Bible study at all, but merely a time of utter nonsense and useless rhetoric.

The writers of the Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament, were not mere pens that God used to put down His thoughts, but men who were filled with the Holy Spirit and “brooded” upon as they wrote the Word. II Peter 1:21 says, ***For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*** The word ***moved*** means be driven, endure, go on, lay, lead, move, reach, rushing, uphold. These men were guided as they wrote what God desired, yet used their own specific styles. They did not see one word and think, “Oh, I think this word is much better than what God wants.” My friend, that is what your “modern day” so-called “bibles” do today. They take the King James and throw it aside and then use the tainted and perverse Westcott and Hort, which is a work straight out of the church of Rome. We see them setting aside such words as sodomite and making it “temple prostitutes.” They take such phrases that tell us how to be saved, and then make it so that you are your own salvation by works. But God’s Word is doctrine. It sets us on the straight and narrow path. It corrects when we are going the wrong direction. And it shows us how to live so we please God and grow to maturity in His Word. It “thoroughly” equips us to do that which is honest, just and holy. It does not give us “sinless perfection,” but makes us grow stronger in the Lord.

One time a man said that since he was saved, he had “lived above sin.” My friend, the only way to live above sin is to rent a room above a beer joint. We will not be perfect until we stand in holiness, in the very presence of Jesus Christ. And that day may be very soon.

Chapter Four

The Finale

We all enjoy reading a good book and coming to its end, where we see how the author culminates the plot and plan of the story. Here we come to the end of the story of Paul's life as he expounds his "last will and testament" to young preacher Timothy. He has given instruction as best and as only he could to his young protégé, so now nears the time of his personal departure from this earth into the realms of eternity. Would that we could have such a testimony as Paul.

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (4:1-2). Here is the answer to Second Timothy 3:16-17, ***for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*** We as God's ambassadors have one goal, and that is to proclaim in all the world the Word of truth, in order to show the world its sins, to instruct them how to correct the sin problem in their lives by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, then instruct them on how to live godly lives and work because of, not for our salvation.

Once again Paul emphasizes the need for ***doctrine***. Anyone who says doctrine is not important is saying the Bible is not important, because the **entire Bible is doctrine**. As someone once said, "Wherever you cut the Bible, it bleeds." It is the story of man's redemption, from the sacrifices of Adam and Eve, carried down to their son Abel, and on to the countless million lambs, rams and cattle slain to temporarily cover the sin of the nation of Israel, and on to the ultimate Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would shed His innocent and sinless blood to take away forever the sin of the world. That is the story of doctrine, the salvation of souls through reading, hearing and heeding of God's Word.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (4:3-4). The main problem with a world of godless, Christ-rejecting sinners is that they do not want to hear that they are hell-bound enemies of the cross. They want to have preachers who will soft soap their so-called "sermons" and placate a crowd that refuses the truth that they have no chance to make it on their own; that they are helpless without the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ; that they need to repent, that is, turn from the lie of the devil to the truth of the Word of God, and that they need to ask for forgiveness and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into their heart, and save them. If they get someone who wants to tell of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, they vote him out of his position as pastor and get someone who with a smile will say, "God loves you. He wouldn't send anyone to hell." Do you know what? He is right. God doesn't send anyone to hell. They send their own selves when they reject the only way to Heaven. But these will rather listen to stories from the local newspapers and magazines, or have rock bands come in and blare away on their instruments, or have skits and plays, rather than someone to tell them that God has a way for them to be saved. They would rather listen to myths (fables) than the truth.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (4:5-8). Paul warned Timothy that persecution would be the toil of what Paul had endured through the years. Now he once more tells Timothy that he too would have to learn to endure or carry on in his work as an evangelist. Today, the evangelist is not what it was in the days of Paul and Timothy. We see evangelists today fly from one city to another, encompassing distances unheard of in the early days of the apostles. What today takes mere hours would be many days, perhaps weeks, for Paul and his entourage to cover. But no matter, Timothy was to prove himself a worthy servant of Jesus Christ in his ministry.

Then Paul enters his farewell address. ***For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*** “Timothy, I have good news and I have bad news. Which do you want first? Well, the bad news is that I am soon going to be beheaded for the cause of Christ. And the good news is that I am going to be beheaded for the cause of Christ.” No matter which, it was all good news to Paul. Those left on earth would sense his absence and no doubt mourn the loss of this apostle of Christ. But to Paul, he saw the time as a time of joy. ***I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*** Again, ***kept*** is the Greek word of protecting against being tarnished. It is a term of fortification; as if a bulwark or barrier had been set around the Word so that it would not be destroyed, as is being tried today by the many so-called “bibles” that are no more than man’s own interpretation, not that of God. And because of the faithfulness of Paul, and the many epistles he had written in his day, we have the inspired Word of God today for the English speaking world. For over four hundred years the Bible has been able to win souls to Christ. May we be so honorable as to “keep” the faith and the Word of God.

There are various crowns mentioned in the Scripture; here is the ***crown of righteousness***, offered because of one’s longing for the day the Lord will return. Other crowns were the crown of rejoicing (II Thessalonians 2:19) for souls brought to salvation through our testimony. There is the preacher’s crown for those who stood against the sin of this world and in truth preached the Gospel of salvation. I would imagine there will be many little old ladies who will get this reward also, for their faithful service in praying day after day for their preacher and his ministry. There is the crown of life for those who suffered persecution and loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all their heart. There is the crown of glory for elders, deacons and preachers, for their continued service in preaching and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. I wonder, how many crowns will we have, when we appear before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia (4:9-10). We have here a sad commentary on those who used to follow in service with Paul, who for one reason or another stopped serving the Lord. Perhaps the heat of the battle became too much for them. One loved the temptations of the world more than the rewards to be won. Even Titus, the next book in the Bible to follow that of the epistles to Timothy, seemed to desert from the faith. This is what happens when one

sees the temptations, trials and tribulations of this world too much for them to endure. I wonder just how many Christians in our nation today would hold true to their faith if the day would come when they either recant their belief in Christ or face a martyr's death? It may come to that someday, perhaps soon.

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry (4:11). Then there were a few faithful followers, as was Doctor Luke, who God used to write the Gospel after his name and the book of Acts that would follow the journeys of the early disciples. Mark had been one to desert Paul and Barnabas early in their ministry, but evidently had returned to fully following the path of service to the Lord, for here Paul calls him beneficial to the final days of Paul's service on earth.

And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus (4:12). Tychicus was the pastor of the congregation in Ephesus, and because of being needed in ministry there, he could no stay in Rome with Paul. It perhaps was a sad occasion for both when he had to leave, but Paul wanted Timothy to know that here was a man worthy of being mentioned.

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments (4:13). Here is an interesting side not to Paul's request to Timothy. I had been in one of the dungeons in Rome and know of how cold it can be there, even during the day in the midst of summer. No doubt the cold must have caused Paul to suffer, after all the beatings and stoning he had endured, so wanted Timothy to come with his coat. Then he also desired something to read, so asked for ***the books*** so he could keep himself occupied until the day of his execution. But more than the books, he said, ***especially the parchments***. These were no doubt the writings of the Old Testament Paul desired to read. "I sure could use my coat and some books, but if you can bring only one thing, please bring me the copy of the Old Testament parchments so I can have them in my last days. I can do without the other, but especially desire the Word God gave to His people."

Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words (4:14-15). There are four by the name of Alexander we can trace through the Scriptures. One was the father of Simon the Cyrenian, who was a black man compelled to carry the cross of Jesus Christ. Another was with the high priest in the temple in Acts chapter five. Then there was the Alexander who compelled the crowd to be quiet so Paul could speak to them. Then of course the coppersmith who made the statues to the goddess Dianna, who stirred up the crowd against Paul. But here, this latter one was a trouble maker, who was set to destroy the message of the cross. It is knowledgeable that Paul did not call upon God to punish this man, as we read further, ***the Lord reward him according to his works***. Be sure that this Alexander received the recompense of his reward (Hebrews 10:30).

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge (4:16). This is a sad commentary on those who use to be servants of the Lord, having forsaken Paul in his ministry at a time when he needed all the encouragement he could muster. I wonder how these men reacted when they bowed before the Throne of Grace and had to answer to Jesus Christ for deserting Paul in such a crucial time? But contrary to Paul's reply concerning Alexander, here he prays to God to overlook their weakness of the flesh.

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion (4:17-18). Passing from the negative of Paul's ministry, he looks forward to the positive he has had in the Lord; no matter how many may fail us, we have the surety that God is with us, no matter what may be our personal circumstances or trials. He has promised ***I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*** (Hebrews 13:5). Isn't it a joy to know that He is always with us? It should make us think twice; no, constantly, that whatever we do, He is right there. Wherever we go, He is right there with us. No matter what we say, He hears it as well. It should make us stop and think before we succumb to the temptation of sin.

Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick (4:19-20). Here are some faithful servants who, although they could not be with Paul, he wanted to let Timothy know of their faithfulness in serving God. Then he mentions one who was sick. One question I would pass to you. Why didn't Paul heal him? After all, early in his ministry he had the gift of healing. The answer is quite simple. Already the temporary gifts were being removed as the Bible neared completion. They were not needed to authenticate God's ministry, ministers or their mission. As First Corinthians 13:9-10 states it, ***For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*** "Oh but that is talking about when Jesus returned then the gifts would be done away." But the ***that*** is not a masculine, or a feminine gender term, but neuter, speaking of an inanimate object, in this case, the Word of God. When it was nearing completion, God was already removing these temporal gifts. Even Paul was refused the healing process when he prayed to God three times to remove his thorn in the flesh (II Corinthians 12:7-8). So we do not need anything like the gift of healing, or speaking in tongues today. We need no more "revelation" that our ecumenical and charismatic crowd cry for today. We have the complete, inspired Word of God today.

Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren. The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen (4:21-22). Paul wanted one last time to see Timothy before the time he would depart from this world. Then he tells Timothy of those who sent their personal greetings to him, and called upon him to remove that Jesus Christ would always be with him. And so ends this touching and loving letter to a young servant of God that Paul had tutored in the doctrine of Christ. Would to God that we had preachers today who could take their young men under their tutorage and lead them into full time service for the Lord. As the beginning of this epistle so states, let each one reach one. And then those go forward and reach others.