



Gospel Good-bye (Gospel Conversation Focus)

Summary and Goal

This section reads like a personal letter from Paul to Timothy. In this, we witness faithful Christianity. Paul was a courageous and steadfast disciple with a single purpose in the face of intimidating circumstances.

Main Passages

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Session Outline

1. The Lord Will Repay (2 Tim. 4:9-14)
2. The Lord Stood (2 Tim. 4:15-17)
3. The Lord Will Rescue (2 Tim. 4:18)

Theological Theme

Christians can face great hardship in life knowing that God will be with them and He will ultimately rescue them.

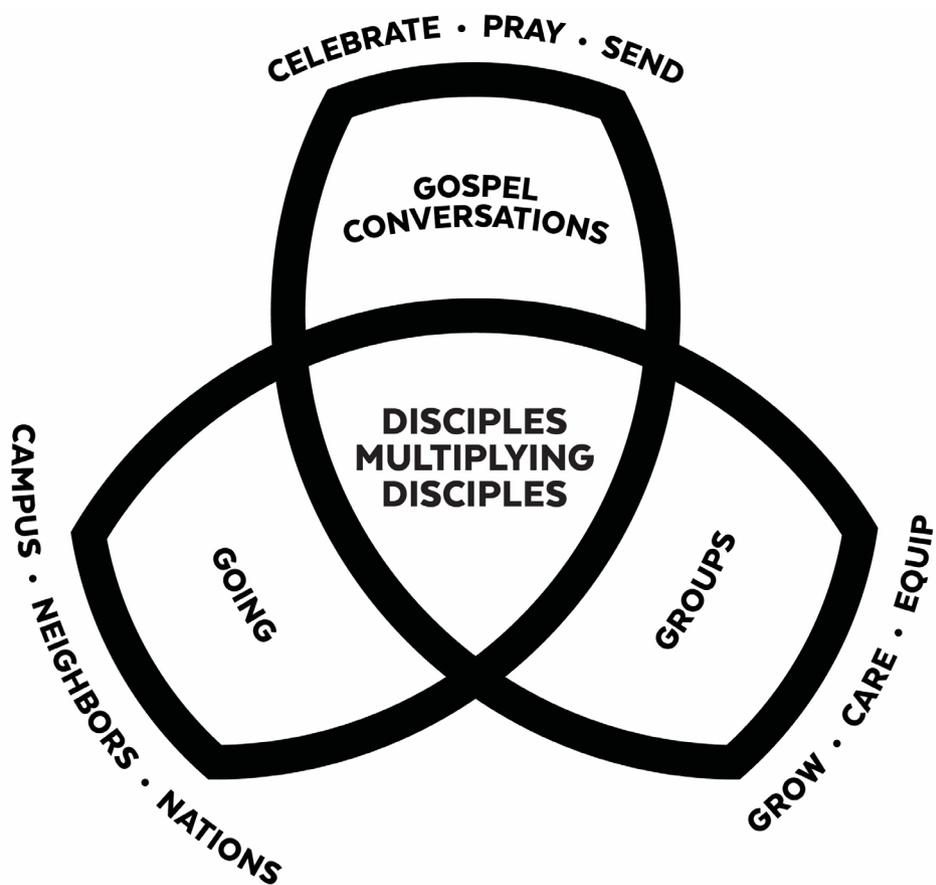
Christ Connection

Because the Father turned away from Jesus on the cross, we can have confidence that He will never turn away from His people, the ones whom Jesus' work redeemed.

Missional Application

Christians are to show faithfulness to God through their entire lives, no matter what they face. Because of the sacrifice of Christ, we can live as faithful witnesses to the goodness of God to all we meet.

Disciples Multiplying Disciples



DxD This Week

Party

Share the details of your group's upcoming party and ask specifically for group members to invite a lost and searching friend or neighbor. Encourage group members to consider hosting a group on-line or in-person a couple times a month to better enable their friends to attend. Visit this link for more info on hosting: <https://leadership.brentwoodbaptist.com/adult-discipleship/host-leader/>

This week's study includes one way to have a gospel conversation and help a lost and searching friend/neighbor for whom you have been praying. The "Roman's Road" verses to salvation are in section one. Give your Co-leader time to lead this section.

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Session Plan

Gospel Good-bye

For the Leader

Have your co-leader open group time today by guiding the testimony time. Pre-enlist a member to open group time by sharing their testimony/God story. Ask them to focus on *how* they came to Christ. Afterward, ask if anyone else would like to share how they came to Christ.

? For Further Discussion

Who are you praying for specifically that is not a Christ-follower?

Introduction/Ice Breaker

- ? Begin today's discussion time by sharing God stories as a follow up to last week's application.

In today's passage, Paul concluded his letter to Timothy with a testimony of the Lord's faithfulness. He pointed to the Lord's faithfulness to wrest justice for the wrongs done to him, to uphold him in his weakness, and to bring him safely to his heavenly kingdom. Timothy needed to be reminded of the Lord's faithfulness more than ever because of the suffering that he faced.

1. The Lord Will Repay (2 Tim. 4:9-15)

God is a just judge. He upholds and executes His law perfectly and without fail. His Law is the absolute standard by which He measures all people, and He does so unflinchingly. God does not overlook sin and no transgression goes unpunished. Thus, Paul was confident that God, the just judge, would mete out the proper punishment to Alexander whenever he saw fit to do so.

- ? What can we learn about trusting God from Paul's words regarding Alexander?
- ? What gave Paul confidence to trust God, despite the wrong that had been done to him?
- ? Application: Share with those around you how Paul's example and your experience help you understand God is present.

2. The Lord Stood (2 Tim. 4:16-17)

Paul made it clear that many people he had hoped he could count on had abandoned him. Although he undoubtedly felt the sting of betrayal, Paul experienced the presence of the Lord and was given strength in his time of suffering (4:17). We all experience seasons in life when other people let us down. Paul reflected the attitude of forgiveness, "May it not be counted against them" (4:16). When we count on other people and they disappoint

us, we have the opportunity to trust God in a more intimate way—just as Paul did.

- ❓ What can we learn from Paul's words about the way God uses hardship for good in our lives?
- ❓ What was Paul's comfort at a time when all people had deserted him?
- ❓ Application: Where are you currently suffering? How might God be using this to shape you for His good purposes?

3. The Lord Will Rescue (2 Tim. 4:18)

Paul closed his letter by comparing the bleakness of his earthly circumstances with what awaited him in heaven. Like Paul, we can show that we are living the persistent Christian life when we recognize that the Lord will ultimately rescue us from every peril and evil thing in this world. We can move forward with faith and confidence knowing that no matter what our future holds, the Lord will stand with us and give us the grace and strength to endure our trials. We can experience hope as we face the end of our earthly life, knowing we have an inheritance in heaven.

- ❓ What did Paul mean by expressing confidence in his rescue and safety? How might this perspective encourage us as we face hardship in life?
- ❓ How does God's preserving you bring Him glory?
- ❓ Application: How is God's eternal protection a great encouragement to you? With whom can you share this message this week?

Conclusion

- ❓ What ordinary means of grace and comfort has the Lord given to you? Are you content with what he has provided for you or do you demand more?
- ❓ Where do you feel deserted? How can Paul's words be an encouragement to you today?
- ❓ How have you experienced the Lord's preserving work in your life? If you don't yet know Him, reread the Roman's Road in your Bible and ask, "What is God saying to me?"



Expanded Session Content

Gospel Good-bye

For the Leader

Have your co-leader open group time today by guiding the testimony time. Pre-enlist a member to open group time by sharing their testimony/God story. Ask them to focus on *how* they came to Christ. Afterward, ask if anyone else would like to share how they came to Christ.

Introduction/Ice Breaker

- 🔍 Begin today's discussion time by sharing God stories as a follow up to last week's application.

Today we see that Paul held to his relationship with Christ even through suffering. Many a soul has turned cold against God because they could not make sense of the evil that is present in this world. The confusion and chaos that seems to reign in this world is enough for some people to abandon any hope of the existence of a good and powerful Being. Yet, in the face of suffering, it is all the more important to seek hope in God. Many of our friends/neighbors have watched how we've held to Christ through the recent pandemic fears. Many of them also questioned God's existence.

Why is this so? Because apart from God, the world is senseless, but with God through Christ, even the most disconcerting aspects of this fallen world cannot dismay us. The holy and sovereign God of the Scriptures is directing all affairs of heaven and earth for His own glory and the good of those who are His. God even uses that which is terrible for the good of His children (Rom. 8:28). Affliction, for those who are in Christ, fetches out the fruit of the Spirit. Furthermore, the maturing power of suffering is very great.

What could bring God more glory than watching His children bless when they are cursed? God is glorified when His children bear up under suffering with faith, hope, and joy. They can do that, not by their own strength, but because of His power working in them. God did that for Paul, God did that for Timothy, and He will do it for Christians today.

Session Summary

In today's passage, Paul concluded his letter to Timothy with a testimony of the Lord's faithfulness. He pointed to the Lord's faithfulness to wrest justice for the wrongs done to him, to uphold him in his weakness, and to bring him safely to his heavenly kingdom. Timothy needed to be reminded of the Lord's faithfulness more than ever because of the suffering that he faced.

1. The Lord Will Repay (2 Tim. 4:9-15)

We know Paul as a great missionary and theologian, but it isn't often that we get a glimpse into his personal life. In the first part of our passage today, we are given a peek at Paul's daily life and personal preferences. Remember, Paul was in prison, and he was no doubt aware that his time on earth was coming to an end. In verses 9-13, we see several examples of the ordinary means of comfort and grace that the Lord provided for Paul. Paul asked Timothy to come and visit him soon. Why? Because Paul loved Timothy and his presence would bring him encouragement and joy. Notice in verse 13 Paul asked Timothy to bring a cloak, scrolls, and parchments.

These simple, ordinary means of grace and comfort set an example for us. In gaining Christ, Paul had lost most of his worldly treasures. He had given all for the sake of Christ and the spread of the gospel. Notice what he asked for. Paul requested fellowship with a dear brother, copies of the Scriptures, and a jacket to stay warm. What an example of simplicity and heaven-mindedness! May we esteem the things of this world that lowly and Christ that highly.

Embedded in this request was a note that Demas had abandoned Paul. Demas's abandonment was particularly painful to Paul. The other co-laborers named in verse 10 may have moved onto other aspects of ministry, but Demas abandoned his service to the Lord. Demas had once been one of Paul's trusted coworkers along with Mark and Luke (Philemon 1:24). But he left because "he loved this present world." The last phrase stands in stark contrast to Paul's mention in verse 8 of those who have longed for Christ's appearing.

Following his request, Paul reported to Timothy also that "Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me." We aren't told the details about this relationship, but we do know that this report was related to Alexander's opposition to Paul's message (v. 15).



What can we learn about trusting God from Paul's words regarding Alexander?

Paul told Timothy, "The Lord will repay him according to his works." Evidently, this man lived in or near Ephesus because Paul warned Timothy to "watch out for him." It seems that Paul believed this man was a danger to Timothy. Despite the wrong done, Paul made no plans to get back at this man. He didn't concern himself with revenge. He simply trusted that Alexander would be brought to justice whenever the Lord saw fit.

Alexander

The Alexander mentioned here cannot be identified with certainty. Paul mentioned an Alexander in 1Tim 1:20 as a person who had been excommunicated. He may have still been in Ephesus causing trouble. Or, since he is identified as a coppersmith, and there is evidence of a guild of coppersmiths in Troas, this may refer to a different man living in Troas. This would explain his appearance here after Paul asked Timothy to visit Troas.

God is a just judge. He upholds and executes His law perfectly and without fail. His Law is the absolute standard by which He measures all people, and He does so unflinchingly. God does not overlook sin and no transgression goes unpunished. Thus, Paul was confident that God, the just judge, would mete out the proper punishment to Alexander whenever he saw fit to do so.

 What gave Paul confidence to trust God, despite the wrong that had been done to him?

Paul knew that God would judge the sins of Alexander because the gospel tells him so. In fact, the very message Alexander opposed (the gospel of Jesus Christ) is the message that assured Paul that Alexander would be justly punished for opposing it and for the harm he did to Paul.

The gospel tells us that all people are rightly condemned for sin. “There is no one righteous” (Rom. 3:10), “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23), and “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23a). But, “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). “If we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom 10:9-10). “For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13). “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Rom 12:2-3). These verses are known as the Roman’s Road and are one way of having a gospel conversation with people. Where do you stand today?

 Application: Who are you praying for specifically that is not a Christ-follower?

 Application: Share with those around you how Paul’s example and your experience help you understand God is present.

2. The Lord Stood (2 Tim. 4:16-17)

Paul faced a number of trials and tribulations throughout his work as a missionary, but it seems that one of the most difficult afflictions through which he passed were times of abandonment and loneliness. It seems that at times he felt deserted. In verse 16, he reported, “At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me.”

Paul made it clear that many people he had hoped he could count on had abandoned him. Although he undoubtedly felt the sting of betrayal, Paul experienced the presence of the Lord and was given strength in his time of suffering (4:17). We all experience seasons in life when other people let

us down. Paul reflected the attitude of forgiveness, “May it not be counted against them” (4:16). When we count on other people and they disappoint us, we have the opportunity to trust God in a more intimate way—just as Paul did.

 What can we learn from Paul’s words about the way God uses hardship for good in our lives?

God is working for the good of His people, even in what appears to be bad, negative, and even tragic. Many believers have testified that never have they grown in faith like they did when they were in the sickbed, yet we never pray for the sickbed, we pray for healing. Paul certainly didn’t pray for desertion, but it was meant for his good. God bends even the most severe trials for the good of His children.

Thomas Watson wrote, “Desertion cures inordinate affection to the world. ‘Love not the world.’ We may hold the world as a posy in our hand, but it must not lie too near our heart. We may use it as an inn where we take a meal, but it must not be our home. Perhaps these secular things steal away the heart too much.”¹

 What was Paul’s comfort at a time when all people had deserted him?

Not everyone had deserted Paul. In verse 17, he said, “The Lord stood with me and strengthened me.” Desertion teaches us to love not the world and to love God more. At his defense, when everyone else had abandoned him, the Lord was his comfort and the Lord was his strength. Is it possible that Paul’s suffering was actually meant for his good and to make him more Christlike?

 Application: Where are you currently suffering? How might God be using this to shape you for His good purposes? Where are your friends/neighbors suffering? How can the Roman’s Road and your God story help them see God?

3. The Lord Will Rescue (2 Tim. 4:18)

Finally, Paul concluded his testimony of the Lord’s faithfulness by saying, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.”

 What did Paul mean by expressing confidence in his rescue and safety? How might this perspective encourage us as we face hardship in life?

These words did not mean that Paul would be spared physical harm. Paul suffered physically for the entirety of his ministry. Paul's statement in verse 18 had nothing to do with some sort of preoccupation for his physical well being. Paul wasn't promoting a theology of material prosperity. That false teaching has been around for a long time, but Paul eschewed it. In fact, his life was a potent counter-argument to that old lie of the serpent. God doesn't primarily want His children to be healthy and wealthy. Rather, He wants them to be holy and humble.

Instead, Paul meant that God would preserve him until it was time for him to enter heaven. He would continue to cling to Christ, trust in the gospel, and repent of sin. He would not forsake the faith or abandon Christ. He would not apostatize no matter how terrible the persecution became. Paul was confident in this because he knew that it was God who sustained him, not his own strength.

 How does God's preserving you bring Him glory?

God is a good, good Father and His arm is never too short to save; His care for those who are His cannot be thwarted. God is glorified when His children worship Him in the midst of suffering, sing praises in prison cells, and rejoice to be counted worthy to suffer as Christ. Furthermore, God's children don't accomplish incredible feats of faith in their own strength. They are preserved by God Almighty, and He will not let them fall.

 Application: How is God's eternal protection a great encouragement to all who trust in Jesus? Is this something you have experienced personally? If not, how might God be calling you to respond today?

Paul closed his letter by comparing the bleakness of his earthly circumstances with what awaited him in heaven. Like Paul, we can show that we are living the persistent Christian life when we recognize that the Lord will ultimately rescue us from every peril and evil thing in this world. We can move forward with faith and confidence knowing that no matter what our future holds, the Lord will stand with us and give us the grace and strength to endure our trials. We can experience hope as we face the end of our earthly life, knowing we have an inheritance in heaven.

Conclusion

Paul loved Timothy dearly, and he desired to see this son in the faith serving faithfully in Ephesus. This letter had one primary exhortation: preach the Word. Paul gave Timothy a variety of reasons and motivations that supported that primary emphasis. Paul chose to end his letter by

turning the spotlight on the fact that the one true and living God, the God of the Word, is faithful and trustworthy. He wanted Timothy to know that he was to pitch his tent upon the ground of the power, goodness, and promises of God.

The Lord had proven Himself faithful in Paul's life, and Timothy could count on the Lord's faithfulness, too. He would be faithful to bring about justice for any wrongs done against Timothy. The Lord would stand by Timothy, even when no one else would, and strengthen him so that the gospel might be proclaimed. Finally, the Lord would bring Timothy safely into the kingdom.

- ❓ What ordinary means of grace and comfort has the Lord given to you? Are you content with what he has provided for you or do you demand more?
- ❓ Where do you feel deserted? How can Paul's words be an encouragement to you today?
- ❓ How have you experienced the Lord's preserving work in your life? If you don't yet know Him, reread the Roman's Road in your Bible and ask, "What is God saying to me?"

Prayer of Response

Close in prayer thanking God that He is perfectly just and trustworthy. Thank Him that He never abandons His people, and He has promised to eternally protect all who belong to Him. Pause and give members time to silently pray for their friend/neighbor who does not know Christ. Conclude with a challenge to members to share their God story with that person this week!

Additional Resources

- *Online Gospel Conversation Guide: <https://brentwood.church/groups/group/?id=10591>*
- *Be Faithful* by Warren Wiersbe
- *2 Timothy* by John MacArthur
- *1 & 2 Timothy & Titus* by Walter Liefeld

For Next Week

Session Title

- Impossible

Main Passages

- Matthew 28:16-20

Session Outline

1. The Commander (Matt. 28:16-18)
2. The Commission (Matt. 28:19-20a)
3. The Comfort (Matt. 28:20b)

Memorize

¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

- 2 Timothy 4:17

Daily Readings

- Monday - 2 Timothy 4:9-19
- Tuesday - James 1:2-4
- Wednesday - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Thursday - Hebrews 10:23
- Friday - Romans 8:37-39
- Saturday - Revelation 3:10-11

Historical Context of 2 Timothy

Purpose

In 1 Timothy Paul directed Timothy to actively oppose false teaching. He also gave instruction on the type of behavior that should characterize those in the church. The letter to Titus shows a similar purpose, albeit briefer in scope. As Paul addressed the character of church members, he presented it in light of the work of Christ. The message in 2 Timothy, Paul's final letter, is quite different. It is much more personal, a letter from one friend to another. Paul was preparing Timothy to carry on the work of ministry after he was gone.

Author

As stated in the opening of each letter, these letters were written by Paul (1Tm 1:1; 2Tm 1:1; Ti 1:1). However, many scholars today assume that Paul did not write them. This opinion is based on the differences from his other letters in vocabulary and style, alleged differences in theology, and uncertainties about where these letters fit chronologically in the life of the apostle. But the differences in style and vocabulary are not troublesome when one considers that authors often use different vocabulary when addressing different groups and situations. Rather than addressing churches in these letters, Paul was writing to coworkers who were in unique ministry settings. Hence we would expect different vocabulary. Also, the traditional view of the historical situation in which Paul wrote these letters is reasonable and defensible. Therefore, in spite of significant opposition by some scholars, there is a solid basis for accepting the Pastoral Epistles as Pauline.

Setting

Paul most likely wrote these letters after the time covered in the book of Acts. Acts closes with Paul in prison. Traditionally it has been believed that Paul was released from this imprisonment, then continued his work around the Mediterranean, perhaps even reaching Spain (Rm 15:22-29). During this time, he visited Crete and other places. First Timothy and Titus were written during this period of further mission work. Timothy had been left in Ephesus to handle some problems with false teaching there (1Tm 1:3-4). Titus had been left in Crete after the initial work to set up the church there (Ti 1:5). Eventually Paul was imprisoned again, and this led to his execution. During this final imprisonment, Paul wrote 2 Timothy to request another visit from Timothy and to give final exhortations as he anticipated his martyrdom.

Special Features

First Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus have been referred to as the "Pastoral Epistles" since the eighteenth century. It is reasonable to consider these letters together since they have striking similarities in style, vocabulary, and setting. These letters stand apart from the other Pauline letters because they were the only ones written to Paul's gospel coworkers. The Pastoral Epistles deal with church structure issues and, unlike Paul's other letters, were addressed to men serving in pastoral roles rather than to churches. But we must also recognize these are separate letters with their own distinctives. They were not written primarily to describe church structure or pastoral ministry (contrary to popular opinion), but to teach Christian living in response to the gospel.

Commentary

2 Timothy 4:9-18

4:9. Paul embraced his humanity in this and the following verses. Though the cold breath of death was upon him, he did not know how many days he had left. He longed to see Timothy one last time, so he urged, Do your best to come to me quickly.

4:10. Here, at the end of his life, Paul felt lonely. This was probably the main reason he wanted desperately to see Timothy. We can learn from Paul, and find encouragement. Although we still struggle within the frame of our emotions and difficulties, our future remains secure. We should never expect Christians to exhibit perpetual happiness, as though the harsh realities of life do not affect them. This life seethes with difficulties, and all the more so for those who faithfully live and proclaim God's truth. Weariness, discouragement, and loneliness visit the faithful Christian.

In order to provide background and impetus for Timothy's visit, Paul reviewed his solitary condition.

Demas. . . has deserted me. Being alone does not always create a sense of loneliness, but being deserted almost certainly will. Desertion has betrayal as its root. Nothing strikes at the heart of a person more than violated trust.

Demas was one of the apostle's friends and associates; Paul mentioned him in Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24, describing him as a "fellow worker." He seems to have served faithfully with Paul, Luke, and others in the missionary endeavor. Yet, at the end, he abandoned Paul and the work because he loved this world. In a few words, Paul penned a double tragedy: not only was Paul abandoned, but Demas had forsaken the goodness of the gospel. Two men suffered loss, though Demas's was more lasting.

Demas probably did not deny Christ and march off to Thessalonica in defiant arrogance. He does not appear as a heretic, signing on with the false teachers. Instead, Demas seems to exhibit the human tendency to seek personal safety. He probably traded in the values of God for the values of this world—the values of immediacy. He probably still believed in Christ, but he was unwilling to endure hardship, to identify with the imprisoned apostle and his unpopular teachings. His heartstrings were attached to personal protection and comfort. This can easily happen to us who live in the affluent Western cultures.

One more thing about Demas: he began well. Faithful service and zealous work do not guarantee the future. Our lives must be lived faithfully each day, each week, year upon year. Here was a man who had served Christ well, who had belonged to an intimate circle of workers with the apostle Paul, and yet he abandoned it in the end. Demas serves as a warning to each of us that we cannot rest on our past or assume the future. We must maintain a steady diligence in the present moment.

In addition to Demas's desertion, Crescens had gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. These were fellow workers who had proceeded to other locations to continue work in established churches, perhaps even to plant new congregations. Paul found nothing wrong in their travels, but their departure magnified his loneliness.

4:11. Paul stated, Only Luke is with me. Luke always seemed to be there, quietly serving, Paul's faithful physician and friend.

Paul then gave Timothy a "wish list" of sorts. First, he said, Get Mark and bring him with you. Behind this request lies a story of grace and restoration. Mark, along with Barnabas, had accompanied Paul on his early missionary travels. But at a certain point Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. His reason for leaving is omitted, but his parting was viewed negatively by Paul. Later, Barnabas wanted Mark to travel with them again, "but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work" (Acts 15:38). A sharp division occurred, and Paul split company with Barnabas and Mark.

In time, however, Mark must have demonstrated maturity and enduring commitment. Paul may have had occasion to work beside him again, for now Paul viewed him as helpful to me in my ministry.

4:12. Paul continued to review his close associates. Tychicus he sent to Ephesus, to work in the church there. In Colossians 4:7, Paul described him as a "dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant." Tychicus had previously delivered the Colossian and Ephesian letters.

4:13. Paul then turned to a few personal needs. When Timothy came, he wanted him to arrange his journey so as to pass through Troas. There he was to visit Carpus, probably a Christian in that city, and collect Paul's cloak. . . and. . . scrolls, especially the parchments.

The cloak was a woolen outer garment. Paul suspected he would remain in prison into the winter months and so would need the warmth of his cloak.

The scrolls and parchments were probably the Scriptures. Paul still wanted to study, to learn. Filling his mind with the Word of God was important to him, even at the end of his life. The parchments were apparently of special value, written on vellum rather than the common papyrus.

Paul's desires were simple at the close of his life. He wanted to be in the presence of friends, to stay warm, and to refresh himself by the Scriptures.

4:14-15. Perhaps as Paul thought about Timothy's journey to Rome, he realized that the young pastor could possibly encounter Alexander the metalworker. Evidently this man had created difficulty for Paul and was an outright opponent of the gospel. Though we cannot be certain, it is possible that this Alexander is the same person whom Paul "handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme" (1 Tim. 1:20). We can conjecture that he rose to leadership, then wandered from the true faith to become a leader among the false teachers who plagued the Ephesian church.

Paul's choice of words suggests that this Alexander may have played a leading role in having him arrested. Whatever the specifics of the situation, Alexander caused great. . . harm. Nevertheless, the final outcome rested not with Paul or Timothy but with God. Paul was certain that the Lord will repay him for what he has done. Alexander's fate remained in the hands of a just God.²

References

1. Watson, Thomas. *All Things for Good*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1986.
2. Larson, Knute, and Max E. Anders. *I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2000.

Author Bio

Thomas Watson (All Things for Good)

Little is known about the early life of this Puritan preacher and author, but his writing shows a profound understanding of the English language, and a firm grasp of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Moreover, his knowledge of Scripture is superb, and his sermons demonstrate his comprehension of physics, botany, history, logic, medicine and more. He endured a significant upheaval in 1651, being imprisoned for plotting to restore the monarchy after the execution of Charles I. He was ultimately released, however, and restored to his pastorate.

Knute Larson (I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon)

Knute Larson coaches pastors and churches, majoring on leadership, pulpit, making changes, and daily grace — drawing on 43 years as a pastor and eight as a pastoral coach.

Max Anders (I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon)

Dr. Max Anders is the author of over 25 books, including the bestselling *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, and is the creator and general editor of the 32-volume Holman Bible Commentary series. He has taught on the college and seminary level and is a veteran pastor. Max provides resources and discipleship strategies at www.maxanders.com to help people grow spiritually.

Warren Wiersbe (Be Faithful)

Warren W. Wiersbe, former pastor of the Moody Church and general director of *Back to the Bible*, has traveled widely as a Bible teacher and conference speaker. Because of his encouragement to those in ministry, Dr. Wiersbe is often referred to as “the pastor’s pastor.” He has ministered in churches and conferences throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Central and South America, and Europe. Dr. Wiersbe has written over 150 books, including the popular BE series of commentaries on every book of the Bible, which has sold more than four million copies. At the 2002 Christian Booksellers Convention, he was awarded the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. Dr. Wiersbe and his wife, Betty, live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

John MacArthur (2 Timothy)

John MacArthur has served as pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, since 1969. His ministry of expository preaching is unparalleled in its breadth and influence. In more than five decades of ministry from the same pulpit, he has preached verse by verse through the entire New Testament and several key sections of the Old Testament. He is Chancellor of the Master’s University and Seminary, and can be heard daily on the *Grace to You* radio broadcast (carried on hundreds of radio stations worldwide). He has authored numerous bestselling books, including *Twelve Ordinary Men* and *One Perfect Life*.

Walter Liefeld (1 & 2 Timothy & Titus)

Walter L. Liefeld is distinguished professor emeritus of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and is the author of *Luke* in the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* series.