

The last words of Paul.

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Notice that it is mostly about people – they matter to Paul.

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Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defence, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion`s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Do your best to come to me quickly,

Is this a call for help? He may be lonely for fellowship.

Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

This would have been a great disappointment –
What discouraging thoughts could it bring?

Demas leaves after all he had seen and been through!
He had been with Paul during his first imprisonment
(Colossians 4:14)

Why? The world's powerful deception.

God knows our hearts – Lord, keep us faithful

Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

They hadn't deserted but have work to do away from Rome

The work goes on.

Only Luke is with me.

Luke was a very good friend and companion perhaps helping Paul while in prison

- Paul would like some more ie. Timothy

This might be an encouragement for Timothy to get moving.

Get Mark and bring him with you,
because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

More brothers are welcome.

There must have been a repairing of the break cf. Acts 15:37-38
Colossians 4:10 shows this had occurred quite a while before.
God's grace at work.

Mark is recognised as a valuable helper to Paul.
Later, he works with Peter to produce the gospel of Mark.

I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

He didn't leave. He was sent (possibly as the postman with this letter to Timothy)
– the work goes on!

Even now we see Paul's concerns for the churches.

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas,

Did he forget his coat or did he lend it to Carpus, or did he have to leave it? Perhaps he had been arrested in Troas and then taken to Rome.

He needs it now. The days are getting colder.

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas,
and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

Something to read? Bring my copies of the Scriptures

Paul knows the comfort and encouragement of God's word.

Cf. Romans 15:4

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

Watch out for trouble-makers! Is this the same Alexander?

1 Timothy 1:19-20 some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Alexander possibly had a lucrative business, making metal idols. Paul's preaching was putting him out of business just like Demetrius in Ephesus Acts 19:24

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

He may have been the 'informant' who testified against Paul to get him arrested.

The trouble-maker is in big trouble himself. Paul prophesies that the Lord will deal with him.

But he can still cause trouble at present. Wisdom is needed in dealing with opposition.

At my first defence, no one came to my support,
but everyone deserted me.

Which defence was that?

Either at his first trial or now at his final trial.

Does 'everyone' mean everyone?

What caused them to avoid being associated with Paul?

How do you think would Paul have felt?

'Deserted' is a strong word to use.

May it not be held against them.

Forgiven!

AND he is praying here that God will
forgive them too.

God's grace at work.

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

He experienced the Lord's help in his trials.

God had a purpose in what Paul went through – the gospel was proclaimed to the Gentiles, just as in his 'job description'
Acts 9:15

And I was delivered from the lion`s mouth.

Did that happen literally? It was a Roman practice!

Or does Paul mean he had a great escape?

Whatever it was God`s grace was at work!

Psalm 22:21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

God's grace hasn't run out. The future supply is available
There are possible echoes of the 'Lord's Payer' here.

Blessed assurance! He will get me home!

Who deserves the glory? The Lord!

AMEN. (He is worshipping as he writes in prison)

Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

More People – dear friends and colleges

The 'dynamic duo' Priscilla and Aquila

The big family of Onesiphorus

Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

Updates on other's whereabouts in various places.

Trophimus was left sick when Paul left!
How was he doing now?

Here is another mystery.

God's sovereignty seems to have a part to play in our physical health in this world.

Cf. Jesus sending away the 10 lepers who were not immediately healed but only healed as they were on their way to see the priests. (Luke 17:14)

Do your best to get here before winter.

Hurry up please?

Travel during the winter time was very difficult.

And I need that coat in this prison!

Eubulus greets you,
and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

There are other believers there in Rome with Paul now.

They too want to share fellowship greetings over a great distance



Paul's imprisonment was in the Mamertine prison (a bleak building still standing in Rome. It was built 100 years before Paul's imprisonment for political enemies of Rome). His imprisonment lasted until he was beheaded under Nero outside Rome's Ostian Gate at a place called "Three Fountains."



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

A blessing.

May Timothy have a real sense of the Lord's presence.

What better thing can Paul ask for as a blessing on his
'son in the faith', Timothy?

And this is for us by faith since this is God's word that
goes beyond Paul and Timothy's day.