

What We Learn from 2 Timothy 4

About People

- **Some disappoint you.**
 - Those who abandoned Paul at his first defense.
 - Look at how Paul viewed this (2 Timothy 4:16-17). Paul desired for God not to hold this against them.
- **Some try to hurt you.**
 - Alexander the Coppersmith did much harm to Paul.
 - Look at how Paul viewed Alexander (2 Timothy 4:14). Paul desired for God's justice upon Alexander.
- **Some fall away.**
 - Demas deserted Paul because he was in love with this world (2 Timothy 4:10). Demas wasn't always this way (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24).
 - Some will depart from the truth (2 Timothy 4:4).
- **Some grow in Christ.**
 - John Mark had abandoned Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:13) but had grown in strength in Christ.
 - Paul grew too. There is a different relationship now between the two (2 Timothy 4:11).
- **Some are great friends, great treasures in the kingdom.**
 - Timothy was that for Paul. Paul wanted his company (2 Timothy 1:4; 4:9,21).
 - Onesiphorus was a great encouragement to Paul (2 Timothy 1:16-18; 4:19).
 - Aquila and Priscilla were great friends, hospitable servants of God, loyal to Paul and had risked their necks for Paul (2 Timothy 4:19; Acts 18:1-3; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19).
 - You can see from Paul's letters how much he treasured his good friends and fellow brethren in Christ!

But as for you...

- 2 Timothy 4:1-4 – Paul talks about how people will turn away from the truth and listen to lies.
- 2 Timothy 4:5 – “As for you.” We see Paul turn to Timothy. This is what they will do, but this is what you do.
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 – Let no one despise you for your youth...You set an example for believers.
 - 1 Timothy 6:10-11 – Greedy Christians have wandered away from faith...but you flee these things.
 - 2 Timothy 3:9-10 – Their folly will be plain to all...You, however, you have followed my example.
 - 2 Timothy 3:13-14 – Evil people will grow worse...but you continue in what you have learned.
- We can see this in marriages, work, school, politics, and in the church. We can get so wrapped up in how other people behave that we let it affect us. We react foolishly to others' foolishness instead of responding like Jesus.

Paul lived for Jesus until he died.

- Paul didn't say, “I'm dying. See you all on the flipside. You all figure it out. I'm checking out.”
- Paul kept living. Paul never checked out. He never retired.
- Paul kept preaching. He made his defense, and we know in his defense he always preached Jesus.
- Paul kept reading. He asked for the books and above all the parchments (2 Timothy 4:13).
- Paul kept writing and encouraging. This whole last letter is to encourage Timothy.
- Paul kept up his concern for what happened after his death. Just like Jesus. Just like Moses. Just like David.
- Paul kept seeking out relationships and companionship (2 Timothy 4:9,11,19,21).
 - He wanted Timothy to hurry up and get there. He also wanted John Mark to come.
 - He valued the relationships of people like Onesiphorus and Aquila and Priscilla.
- Paul knew he was leaving this world, but he lived for Jesus every moment until he died.