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- 2  **Encouragement – the gift we all need**
- 3  **How do you want to be remembered?**
  - 2003 national college football championship at the Fiesta Bowl
  - Head coach Jim Tressel of the Ohio State Buckeyes, asked his team one simple question: How do you want to be remembered?
  - Must have worked. Ohio State defeated the Miami Hurricanes ending their 34-game winning streak.
- 4  **Kind of a weird hobby**
- 5  **Merv Griffin**
  - TV talk show host
  - “I will not be right back after the message.”
- 6  **Mel Blanc**
  - Voice of Porky Pig, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and others.
  - Best known for “That’s all folks”
- 7  **Edward Koch**
- 8  **Gil O’Teen**
- 9  **Santa Claus**
- 10  **Christine Herman Merrill Smith**
- 11  **Headstone in Florence Alabama**
  - Many tombstones in this cemetery
    - “Loving father,” “Beloved mother,” “Darling son,” “Rest in Peace,” “Asleep in Jesus,” and so on.
    - Owner of plantation had this under his name: “A man of unquestioned integrity.” Just five words. Nothing more, nothing less.
- 12  **Ready for liftoff**

1..2..3.. – Blastoff!
- 13  **Paul is about to die**
  - The words of 2 Timothy are Paul's last words written during his final imprisonment in Rome.
  - He has been in prison, under house arrest, and in prison again – and winning Roman guards to Christ all the time.
- 14  **Paul still has a burden**
  - His heart never leaves the churches he started. He wants to see them continue in faithfulness.
  - He wants to see young Timothy take charge to continue the ministry and writes 2 Timothy to “fan the flame” of ministry in Timothy.
  - He leaves a final word of exhortation to encourage Timothy's faithfulness.
- 15  **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

*I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom, preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and instruction.*

16 ■ **2 Timothy 4:1-5 (continued)**

*For there will be a time when they will not put up with sound teaching, but in accordance with their own desires, they will accumulate for themselves teachers, because they have an insatiable curiosity, and they will turn away from the hearing of the truth, but will turn to myths. But you, be self-controlled in all things, bear hardship patiently, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

17 ■ **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is imminent. I have fought the good fight, I have completed the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

- Paul does finish well

18 ■ **An appointment I can't miss**

- Marathon runner John "The Penguin" Bingham -- As I stand at the starting line, I know that somewhere out there is a finish line.
- We all have a finish line somewhere.
  - If I live as long as my Dad, I only have 12 more years.
  - If I live as long as my mother, I have at least another 39 or 40 years.
- Hebrews 9:27 applies to all of us.

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24  **A poured offering (4:6)**


- Numbers 28:4-7 required a fermented drink offering to be poured out with the sacrifice of each lamb (done twice daily)
- Offered -- Paul says his life is poured out as an offering to the Lord
  - Dedicated entirely to God
  - Lived for God and not for self – For me to live is Christ; to die is gain.
- Nero will soon put Paul to death.

25  **A planned departure (4:6)**

- Departure
  - Used of a ship sailing over the horizon which will arrive in another port
  - Used of packing up a tent to move it to another location
  - Used of a relative leaving to return home after visiting you
- For the Christian, death is not an end but a return to his true home
- The timing is in God's plan

26  **A prize-worthy finish (4:7)**


- Paul fought the good fight (1 Timothy 6:12) -- *Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*
- Paul finished the race (Acts 20:24) -- *But I consider my life as worth nothing to myself, in order to finish my mission and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*
- Paul kept the faith (2 Timothy 1:14) -- *Guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

27  **A precious expectation (4:8)**

- A crown of righteousness – Paul looks forward to being adorned with the righteousness of Christ
- Given to all those who love the appearing of Christ
  - You need to be living a righteous life in order to look forward to the return of Christ
  - Those Christians living in sin, compromise, and who are wasting their lives will feel shame at seeing their Savior the first time

28  **Why we need encouragement**29  **People let us down (4:10)**

- Demas was a coworker of Paul and Luke
  - Colossians 4:14 -- *Luke the physician, our dear friend, greets you, as does Demas.*
  - Philemon 23-24 -- *Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.*
- Demas deserted Paul when the going got tough.
  - He chose the comforts of Thessalonica over the hardships of ministry
  - Paul wants faithful Timothy by his side

30  **People let us down (2)**31  **People leave us (4:10)**

- Not everyone can be there for you all the time.
  - Others have to go places to serve the Lord.
  - Never make “What can I get out of it?” as your focus when joining a church. Also ask, “How can I serve the Lord here?”

32  **People leave us (continued)**

- Faithful coworkers went elsewhere to serve:
  - Crescens went to Galatia
  - Titus to Dalmatia (Yugoslavia)
  - Tychicus was sent to Ephesus (4:12)
- It is discouraging to pastors when they lose faithful people that they have come to love and appreciate.

33  **People oppose us (4:14-15)**

- *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil*
  - 1 Timothy 1:19-20 -- *...have suffered shipwreck concerning their faith among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, in order that they may be taught not to blaspheme*
- Not everyone finishes well
  - They stray from sound doctrine
  - They withdraw gradually from fellowship
  - They grow cold in their zeal for the Lord

34  **The world persecutes us (4:16)**

- Paul was in prison for the final time and now facing execution under Nero
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35  **The world persecutes us (cont'd)**

- Tribulation has a way of showing who your real friends are
  - *At my first defense, no one came to my aid, but they all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.*
    - Many who had served with Paul abandoned him before the first hearing of his second imprisonment. They were “fair-weather” partners.
    - Paul does not hold this against them.

36  **We have our limitations (4:20)**

- The time period in the book of Acts was filled with miracles to validate God’s messengers at the start of the church age.
- Apostles saw the lame walk, the demon-possessed freed, and the sick healed.
- But Paul left Trophemas in Miletus sick.
  - Paul couldn’t heal Trophemas.
  - No one person has the gift of healing.
    - 1 Corinthians 12:10 -- *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the one Spirit*

37  **How can we encourage each other?**38  **Be present (4:9,21)**

- In tough times, there is nothing like the presence of a true friend.
- Paul twice tells Timothy to make every effort to come see him:
  - 4:9 -- *Make haste to come to me quickly.* (KJV – “Do thy diligence to come to me.”)
  - 4:21 -- *Make haste to come before winter.*
- Luke faithfully remained with Paul (4:11)
- Being present can be inconvenient but it is worth the trip!

39  **Give practical help (4:13)**

- *When you come, bring the cloak that I left behind in Troas with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.*
- Paul needed his cloak to warm him in the cold winter while in prison awaiting execution.
- Paul had scrolls and parchments he wanted to study and encourage him. Could have been Scriptures or letters.

40  **Pray for bold courage (4:17)**

- At some point, we all experience the fear of man.
- We need others to pray that we will be bold in witnessing and have the strength to stand alone for God.
  - The Lord strengthened Paul in his court trials
  - He made the Gospel message known
  - He counted his own life as less precious than the ministry to which he was called (Acts 20:24)

41  **Stop and drop!**

- When someone needs prayer, do it right then!

42  **Remind others of victory (4:18)**

- *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will save me for his heavenly kingdom, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*
  - For Paul, his death was not a victory for Rome, but a rescue from the Lord.
  - Paul's remembering of this victory causes him to conclude with a word of praise to the Lord.
- Sometimes we need cheerleaders to remind us that we are on the winning team.

43  **Acts 15:36-40**


Acts 15:36-40 -- *And after some days, Paul said to Barnabas, "Come then, let us return and visit the brothers in every town in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing." Now Barnabas wanted to take John who was called Mark along also, but Paul held the opinion they should not take this one along, who departed from them in Pamphylia and did not accompany them in the work. And a sharp disagreement took place, so that they separated from one another. And Barnabas took along Mark and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, after being commended to the grace of the Lord by the brothers.*

44  **Don't give up on each other (4:11)**

- Mark lost heart during his first missions trip and returned home.
- Paul didn't want to work with someone upon whom he couldn't rely.
- But Barnabas chose to keep encouraging John Mark and took him on another trip to Cyprus.
  - "Adopted son of the smile"
  - Real name was Joseph – a Cyprian Levite (Acts 4:36)

45  **Don't give up on each other (cont'd)**

- Does encouragement make a difference?
  - In Paul's view, Mark went from being useless (Acts 15:36-40) to necessary (2 Timothy 4:11) and it was because of Barnabas' encouragement.
  - ...*Take along Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me for ministry.*
- It begs the question: Would Demas still be useful for ministry if someone had encouraged him?

46  **How can you encourage?**

- Be present

- Give practical help
- Pray for others to have bold courage in ministry
- Remind others of God's promises and our victory
- Don't' give up on each other

47  **How do you want to be remembered?**

- A faithful spouse
- A wise parent
- A loving grandparent
- An encourager
- A servant of God with integrity
- One who loved others