

Spurgeon's Notes

4:6—It is beautiful to observe the way Paul describes his death in this verse. According to our translation, he speaks of it as an *offering*. Now Paul does not venture to call himself an offering; Christ is his offering. Christ is, so to speak, the sacrifice on the altar. He compares himself only to that little wine and oil poured out as a supplement, not necessarily to its perfection but tolerated in performing a vow or allowed in connection with a freewill offering. Paul is resolved to show his thankfulness to Christ, the great sacrifice, and he is willing that his blood should be poured as a drink offering on the altar where his Lord and Master was the great burnt offering.

4:13—Paul had a few books left, perhaps wrapped up in the cloak, and Timothy was to be careful to bring them. Even an apostle must read. He is inspired, and yet he needs books. He had seen the Lord, and yet he needs books. The apostle says to Timothy, and so he says to every Christian leader, “Give yourself to reading.” The person who never reads will never be read; the one who never quotes will never be quoted; those who will not use thoughts from the brains of others will prove that they have no brains of their own. What is true of ministry leaders is true for all Christians. We need to read. We must study as much as possible sound theological works and expositions of the Bible. We are persuaded that the best way to spend leisure time is to be either reading or praying. We may get much instruction from books that afterward we may use as a true weapon in our Lord and Master’s service.