

2Timothy 4:9–22

An Example of How to Live from An Apostle About to Die

Thursday, August 10, 2023 • 2Timothy 4:9–22

Questions from the Scripture text: What is the first/primary command in v9? What would this diligence hasten? For whom would Timothy be making up (v10)? Why did Demas leave? Where did he go? What other men have had to go? Who is with Paul (v11)? For whom else does Paul ask? Why? Whom did Paul send to make up for Timothy's absence in Ephesus (v12)? What four things does Paul ask Timothy to bring? Which, most of all? Who did what to whom (v14)? What does Paul call down upon him? Whom does Paul warn (v15a)? Why (v15b)? What happened, when Paul defended himself against Alexander's words (v16)? What does Paul desire for them? Who stood with Paul (v17)? What did He do to Paul? Why? From what has Paul already been delivered? From what else will he be delivered (v18)? Unto what end? To whom does he send greetings (v19)? About whom does he provide information (v20)? What does he reiterate in v21 (cf. v13a)? Who greet Timothy? Finally, Who greets Timothy through the apostle (v22, cf. v17)?

What does a dying apostle desire? 2Timothy 4:9–22 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **a dying apostle desires companionship in the ministry. Scripture, a healthy church, the spread of the gospel, and continued expression of the grace of Christ.**

The apostle has just announced his imminent death in v6–8. So, what does he want from Timothy?

Companionship in the ministry. The Lord has designed fellowship with Him to be enjoyed in fellowship with each other. This is true of the ministry as well. Paul was down just to Luke (v11). Galatia and Dalmatia needed help, so Crescens and Titus were sent. Someone had to carry this letter, and who better than Tychicus (v12), who had carried Ephesians (cf. Eph 6:21) and Colossians (cf. Col 4:7)?

Sadly, Demas found some sort of earthly advantage in continuing his ministry in Thessalonica—a That leaves Paul with just Luke. Gloriously, there has been a wonderful conclusion to the tragedy of Ac 15:37–39. Either Mark has grown, or Paul has softened (or, probably, both), and now he is “useful for the ministry” (v11). This is how we know the greater purpose for desiring Timothy to come. Throughout the letter, Paul has addressed him as an affectionate father to a son, but Paul still has his eye on the mission, “the ministry” (article in the original).

Scripture. Winter is coming (v21), which is why diligence and quickness is needed on Timothy's part (v9) so that Paul's thick, wool wrap (v13) will arrive in time. But Paul's spiritual needs are as important as his bodily needs. The books (papyrus rolls) and the parchments were happily not on the boat to be ruined, but providentially back in Ephesus with Timothy. Now, the apostle would like to handle holy Scripture one last time in this world. It is likely that he knew the text by heart. But the fact that God has inscribed, inscriptured, His Word for us is a physical miracle to be treasured. (Even for us after the age of the printing press; perhaps the digital age will make the precious inscriptions too rare once again).

A healthy church. Paul has warnings for Timothy about Alexander. We can see that he's not being vindictive, by his prayer for the forgiveness of the rest of the church, who had all forsaken him (v16). But it is in behalf of that church that he cries out for justice in v14. And it is important, for the sake of the church, that Timothy be prepared to do word-battle (v15) against Alexander's teaching. This may cost Timothy personally, as it had done Paul (v16, cf. 3:10–13), but if he is going to continue in the ministry and the faith (cf. 3:14–4:5), he is going to have to identify those who threaten her with their false teaching. Timothy can count on the Lord (v17) to Whom that ministry belongs.

The spread of the gospel. Paul knew the personal love and help of the Lord Jesus, to be sure. But, it was from Christ Himself that Paul had obtained the great priority in v17: “that the message might be preached fully and that all the nations might hear.” Personally, Paul was already delivered from the lion that is death itself (v17, cf. Ps 22:21), and he was about to be delivered even from remaining sin (v18). Believers who are sure of current justification and the coming completion of their sanctification ought to devote themselves to the service of the Savior, unto the glory of the Savior! Are you sure of justification and sanctification in Christ? Are you devoted to His service, unto His glory?

Continued expression of the grace of Christ. One lovely way that His glory is displayed is in the care of the saints for one another. Paul greets Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus (v19). He knows that Timothy will be lovingly interested in how Erastus and Trophimus are (v20). Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren care about Timothy. Where did all of these saints get this love for one another? From the Lord Jesus Himself. The Lord Who loves us and has given His Spirit, that He might be with our spirit. The Lord Whose blessedness has replaced our cursedness, and Whose strength is made perfect in our weakness... which is to say, the Lord Whose grace is with us (v22). May He be glorified in the graciousness of His people to one another!

If you were about to die, what would you want? How does your life show Christ's love for His Word and His church?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for Your grace to us to save us from the lion that is death and assure us that we will one day be rid of evil completely. Forgive us for how easily we fall in love with this world, and grant instead that we would be devoted to Your work. Forgive us for how small our love for Your church is, and grow that love by the grace of Christ, whose love it is, and in whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP197 “Christian Unity” or TPH409 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit hpwl.org/hah

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Timothy 4 verses 9 through 22. These are god's words. Be diligent to come to me quickly. For Demas has forsaken me. Having loved this present world and has departed for tessellanica. Questions for galatia titus for dalmatia. When we luke is with me. Get mark and bring him with you for his useful to me for ministry.

And teach us i have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that i left with carpus at troaz when you come. And the books. Especially the parchments. Alexander the copper smith. Did me much harm. May the Lord repay him. According to his works. You also must be aware of him for his greatly resisted, our words.

At my first defense, no one stood with me. But all forsook me, may it not be charged against them. The lord stood with me and strengthened me. So that the message might be preached fully through me. And that all the gentiles might hear. Also, i was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

And the lord will deliver me. From every evil work. And preserve me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. Great priska and Aquila. When the household of Venezer for us. Arrested stated in Corinth, but triphamus, i have left in. My lead is sick. Do your utmost to come before winter.

Nebulus grits, you as well as Putin's linus, claudia, and all the brethren. The lord jesus christ. Be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Well, the apostle Paul has just Announced his imminent, death. He said in verse 6, the time of His departure is at hand. That's what verses 6 to 8. We're really talking about And so, i think it's Helpful for us for thinking about how to live. To see that even when his departure was on, and He was still using the time that was left in this world.

The way we should always use it. Yes, we are. Those who, Love the appearing of the lord jesus christ and their eager for him to come. But we also trust the wisdom of the lord jesus christ. And the timing of when you comes And yes, we are those who have loved to be absent from the body and present with christ.

So that even if we had a very fruitful life, like the apostle Paul did. I suspect, his life was in many respects, more fruitful than Uh, than many of ours. Uh, yet. Uh, we would not so long to be gone that we would say, uh, That we're having difficulty figuring out which one.

Uh, to desire. But so long as the Lord does keep us here. And right. Until the end of our time. We should know him. We should serve him. And the apostle then and the end of this letter, Having declared his imminent departure and then he gives Timothy all of these instructions.

He sets for us an example. Of. Priorities things that we should desire. As we live our life on earth and not just when we're about to die. Because you may be about to die. You don't know. But, because We are still in this life by the providence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, the first thing that we see is that he desires. Companionship in the ministry. That looks like presents and Titus. And Titus. Um, they all went. To places for ministry, purposes out of love for the Lord, love for the church. Um, and so Crescens went to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia took us to That Paul himself sent self-sent to Ephesus.

There are people who take ministry positions out of other motives. It's a good warning for us. That Demas going to Thessalonica. Supposedly to pastor preach there, whatever. Um, Was. Motivated with love for this present world. He saw Uh, some Opportunity, maybe for wealth, maybe for comfort, maybe for Notoriety, whatever it is.

Um, But it's sad. To hear the apostle say, I would have had one more pastor with me. Uh, but he wasn't making ministry decisions. Out of a love for the Lord and the love for his people. And so his absence hurts a little bit more. Then Crescens is Titus or Uh, Titicas is absence.

Thankfully, Paul still has Luke with him. Um, but he desires companionship in the ministry. Sending this letter to Um, To Timothy, so that Timothy would come. Okay, and then you'd have Luke and he'd have Timothy, he even asks for Mark. Praise God. The difficulty, and Um, Well between Paul and Barnabas and Mark has all been resolved.

We actually describes Mark as useful for ministry, the very thing. That was the point of contention. That's the guy who abandons us. He's not useful for ministry. And the very point thing that was a point of contention and Acts and So, maybe Mark has grown and maybe Paul has grown, but almost certainly both.

But the Lord has designed fellowship with him to be enjoyed. In fellowship with each other. And not just the fellowship of worship. Which is the greatest fellowship. Um, That believers have is when they're worshipping together. But also the fellowship of service and the fellowship of ministry. Something we should be glad to have others.

Uh, others together with us. In. The ministry. And so, that's One thing that. Paul wants. That is part of his. Desire. Because he's still in this world. And, Uh, we may be that we may be thankful that the Lord has put us in the household with so many people.

But we should have desire that we would have fellowship and worship and Fellowship. In serving the church and serving others. And of course, even the fellowship in serving one another In addition to whatever other fellowship we have, whether it's Learning or Playing or whatever else we do. Paul is.

To whom the Lord, Jesus appears sometimes as he Appears here. In verse 17 as he reports, I mean, Him having appeared in verse 17. And, Uh, yet he desires a fellowship of the saints. The Lord Jesus himself desires. The fellowship of the saints. It doesn't speak to a deficiency of our satisfaction and gone.

Have the Lord Jesus. Praise in John 17. I desire that those whom you have given me would be with me. Says the Lord Jesus. So there's companionship in the ministry in fellowship at the same second thing he wants is the scriptures. He's giving him. Instruction. And He says. Uh, bring the books, especially the parchments.

Certainly. Paul knew the scriptures. Very well. Uh, but As he's about to die. He asks for the physical copies. The, the apostle. Wanted to handle holy scripture. In his hands. One last time in this world. That is the inscriptions on the page. She's That's what scripture is. That he's just finished telling Timothy in verse 16 of the previous chapter.

Has given by the breathing out of God. It's like God breathing out to you. And so there's something about, Having an actual copy of the Bible. Looking at it. And seeing that God. So loved you and wanted to communicate to you,

But he breathed out words and caused them to be written on the pages. And so the books and the pages are precious books. Here would have been scrolls, parchments would have been flattened and treat it. Lamb skins. That. That were made, especially for prepared, especially for writing upon. But the copies of the word of God.

Our precious he wanted scripture. We too should want copies of the word of God. There is.

There is a superiority. To the physical text of the physical text, even to Digital text. Yes, the words are the main thing. Now, but if you can have one or the other, the Scripture on. On the page, the evidence that you can hold on your hand. Of, I've God's communicating.

Himself to us and equipping us etc. Uh, another thing that Paul wants, and this is something we should want our whole life long, but The closer we get to, Um, Leaving this world, the more That we desire it. I knew a man who Had labored for reformation his whole life, but then when he got into his late 80s and His late and his early 90s, it was almost all he could think about.

Was the church's healthy as the doctrine becoming more sound. Is the worship becoming more pure, or they knowing God and His power. Uh, in in their lives. Well, I get to see a revival. Uh, before I die. And this too is. Um, as Paul's, great concern for the churches, of course, the whole letter Has been instruction to Timothy passing the baton.

The previous letter. First Timothy was more about reformation of a particular problem and this one has been more about passing the baton. Although we can see in our passage, there is a particular problem. But, Love for the church and Desire. For a healthy church. The apostles clearly not being vindictive.

When he says Alexander the copper smith, did me much harm, may the Lord repay him, according to his works. It might sound vindictive until we get to verse 16. We find out that All those who have gone after him, he says of them. May it not be charged against them.

And then we have to read verse 14, not as The apostle being vindictive but And the apostle and behalf of the church that has been so harmed. Knowing that the one who Harms the church. God will God will, avenge his bride. And so, it's not just Not just the harm.

That Alexander did Paul in getting everyone to abandon him at my first defense. No one stood with me but all forsook me. But the harm that Alexander did and you see what that harm was in verse 15. By getting others to join him in greatly resisting. The true words of God's servant.

And when they resist the true words, they harm themselves. Paul loves them and he doesn't want their abandoning him. To be charged against them. He he wants

them to be restored. To hearing the true words. He wants them to be delivered. From the false man who has harmed the church.

A man who evidently is a man of some means. Copper smith. Um, Me. Remember, he and Jaimenez had been false teachers in the church. There's probably an elder At least. A minister perhaps. Um, I came up with false teaching, and it seems That after paul. After paul wrote first Timothy, That Alexander.

Was somehow able to, Turn the ears and minds and hearts of the whole congregation. So, that rather than the Reformation. That Timothy was to enact. Uh, sticking. Eventually. Alexander. What was able to turn the tide and this comes in god's province. Congregations rise and congregations fall. The seven congregations and asia minor.

To which jesus's own letters are addressed. The second and third chapters of revelation. Are no longer there. And yet. The believer in this life. One of his great priorities. Is that the church would be healthy?

So companionship in the ministry. The scriptures themselves. Loving them, handling them holding them, the health of the church, the spread of the gospel. And, The lord stood with me and strengthened me. And yes, the lord loves paul. Yes. The lord wants to encourage a servant. Doesn't Uh, you know, just like he did for Elijah, doesn't want him left in his.

Uh, discouragement But the lord and paul are on the same page here, they're aiming at the same thing, you look at verse 17, the rest of it so that the message might be preached fully through me. Polls. Calling in life is not to be liked by as many people as possible.

Paul's calling in life is to To serve the god, to whom, he belongs to preach. The gospel. And he's still alive. And he knows he's apostle to the gentiles to his conclusion is if i'm still alive, there are more gentiles to preach to for me. That, that The message might be preached fully through me that all the gentiles might hear Now, none of you not, i either you called to be the apostle to the gentiles.

But you do have some particular callings in your life that, you know, You wake up tomorrow and it turns out, oh, i'm still in this world. I'm alive. And so, You have a new commission for that day and whatever roles the Lord has put you in in our household and the church.

Um in in the community. And even if you don't know your rules, you know that the lord knows and his providence the good for which he has you here. And so, you aim, So long as you live. To serve the lord well with every day of that life. Um, and especially for The spread of the gospel and the gathering in of all the saints.

Because not only are you still alive but the world is still here. And we know from the bible, why the world is still here? Because god is still gathering his saints in And we want to be on the same page as our savior, too. And so praying. For unbelievers to take up a lot of our time.

I should be one of the things that is often and The forefront of our minds looking. For opportunities to Speak well. Of the lord jesus to represent. Well. The lord jesus and how we live.

The spread of the gospel. And then, Continued expression of the grace of christ. Uh, we're not just here. Um, For the sake of those who haven't heard, So, wonderful combination. Collection. Of, greetings and informings about how people are doing. Because He's a, he knows that Timothy and his Uh, Walk by grace.

Care is much to know how things are going. Um, With various others and and so forth. So, one lovely way that god's glory christ's glory. Is displayed as in how saints care for each other. Paul. Wants to communicate his care for priska, Aquila and as a forest and the rest of anesa forces house.

So we have Timothy do that. Paul knows that Timothy will want to know what's going on with erastis and triphamus. From us, in particular, is sick. Paul includes that detail because he knows Timothy will care that he's sick. Pull himself knows, Timothy's care for him. He's already asked for the cloak which is a thick woolen.

Uh, garment and when he says, do your utmost to come before winter, that's probably tied to that cloak. So that Paul who is aging in near death. Now, Would have. Uh, would have the the doak There are others who care about Timothy. You see that, you lost some prudence and Linus and quality of all the brethren.

Care about Timothy and all of this care. For one another and verse 19 and verse 20, and verse 21, it all flows, from the lord jesus. It all comes from his care from us. You remember, when he Was talking to the philippians and Philippians wanted. He said i long for you with the guts.

Of jesus christ. And so verse 22 isn't just a conclusion to the letter, it's the last of the greetings under reminder. Um, a reminder where all of this care among the saints come from The lord jesus christ. Be with your spirit. That he cares for us that we would have the sense of our union with him.

We are united to him but when we have that sense of and experience of and expression of our union with him that's communion, that's fellowship with him. And of course, Uh, not only do we have his fellowship? But we have his life and power and goodness as well. And that's I found in that last phrase, grace.

Be with you, amen. Um, so right up until the end. And the last words that the apostle pins, This particular apostle lens in. Um, in scripture, just giving us an example. Of. The great things in life, the priorities. Even the worldly known. That they're well even those who by common grace, have some wisdom.

In the world. No. That it's good to spend time. With those who are elderly with those who are agent. But those who are coming to the end of life, So that with the benefit of their perspective, Uh, we may hear and learn what the important things are. But this, of course, is superlatively true with this apostle.

And may, the Lord give us to value companionship. In worship and ministry and everything else among believers. You give us the value. The, the copies of his word. That he's giving us, may give us the value. The health of his church. They give us to value the spread of the gospel.

I mean, we give us to value. The glorifying of jesus's care. For one another. By its being worked out. Um, by our own care. For. And then we'll spray.

Our gracious. God and our heavenly father, we pray that you would The blessed to us, this portion of your word. We thank you lord jesus for What you suffered? And counted a small suffering. For the joy that was set before you thank you. That you're not only did it yourself, but you Reproduced the experience in polls of That as he suffered.

The fact that the joy that was set before him was so much bigger, Would be brought to light even in how he wrote to Timothy. And we pray lord that you would help me. That you'd help our house. That you would help indeed all ministers and Persecuted christians, everywhere.

To have a joy set before them that is greater than they're suffering. We thank you for the testimony also of a man who Was getting close to leaving the world. And we pray that your spirit would bless to us. The wisdom of his word. Even in the form of this testimony.

That we would live for many many decades. With the priorities that we will wish we had lived with. When we come to leave. Thank you, father for teaching us. That's the good and perfect. Father, help us lord. Now, to listen and to live. As children of such a father should.

Before we ask it in the name of your only begotten. And perfect son, who is himself our righteousness? Even jesus. Amen.