

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:22

Day 1

Continue in the Word. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. What command and focus did Paul give Timothy to fight the godlessness around him? 3:14 (Compare John 15:4,5,9,10) *Note: In the Greek the sentence starts with “you” for emphasis.*

- Who had helped Timothy come to an understanding of the truth? 3:14b,15a *Why could Paul tell others to follow his example? 1 Corinthians 11:1*
- What is the main purpose of Scripture? 3:15b (See Deuteronomy 32:46,47)

FYI: Convinced/assured of Strong's NT:4104 *pistoo*; to assure

“To confirm, establish, ascertain, make sure or certain. In the passive...spoken of a person's being confirmed in or assured of (2 Tim. 3:14)”
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary NT

“Paul is quick to note here, salvation is not found in the Scriptures, *per se*. Salvation comes via Christ Jesus, the one to whom Scripture points.”
- Coleman and Peace (59)

2. What did Jesus prove with scripture? Luke 24:43-47

- How did Paul use scripture in Acts 17:2,3; 18:5,28?

3. What is said about the link between scripture and salvation in the following?

- John 5:39-40,46
- John 20:30-31

4. From whom do the words of Scripture (the Bible) originate? 3:16a (See also 2 Peter 1:20,21; Matthew 4:4)

FYI: God-breathed/inspired by God Strong's NT:2315 *theopneustos*; divinely breathed in

“This word picture involving air or **breath** lifts a deeply significant meaning from the creation account [Genesis 2:7] in the Hebrew Bible.

We often call the words of poets and songwriters ‘*inspired*,’ but strictly speaking, this misuses the term. Only the words of prophets and apostles writing under the supernatural direction of the Holy Spirit are truly ‘*in-Spirited*.’ Only God-breathed words possess His life.”
- Charles Swindoll (219,220)

5. In what ways should scripture instruct us for life? 3:16b

FYI: *Reproof/rebuke* Strong's NT:1650 *elegchos*, proof, conviction

Correction Strong's NT:1882 *epanorthosis*, a straightening up again, i.e. (figuratively) rectification (reformation):

"[3:16,17] is the single most significant sentence in all the New Testament regarding the Scriptures because it touches on *the* watershed issue of faith in our times. What you believe about the Bible influences everything you believe and affects every decision you make."
- Charles Swindoll (219)

"Everything a believer needs to become all that God has redeemed him to be has been deposited in the Scriptures."
- Tony Evans (1443)

6. How will the understanding and application of the truths of scripture impact our lives? 3:17
(Cf. 2:21)

FYI: *Thoroughly equipped/fully capable* "Though we cannot see it in English, Paul here used two forms of the Greek word for equip...to make his point. The man of God is super-equipped by the Word of God." - Hughes (239)

Applying the Word: How would you describe the place of God's Word in your life? Are your convictions strong enough to keep your lifestyle in line with truth or stand up to opposition when you are outnumbered?

Day 2

"Preach the Word". Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

7. How solemn was Paul's charge to Timothy? 4:1a

8. What three points about Jesus did Paul give? 4:1b

- (See Titus 2:13)

- (See Romans 2:16)

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9. What was Timothy's primary responsibility? 4:2a (Cf. 1 Tim. 4:13)

FYI: "We have the holy responsibility and unspeakable privilege of heralding God's timeless truth to people. Like Ezra, let us study it, obey it and teach it (Ezra 7:10; Neh. 8)...Martin Luther said...'I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing... the Word did it all...I did nothing; I left it to the Word.'" - Platt (203,204)

10. **When** was Timothy to “preach the word”? 4: 2b (See 1 Peter 3:15)

- **What** was Timothy to do in preaching? 4:2c (See 1 Thessalonians 2:11; Titus 2:15)
Which of these would be more difficult?
- **How** was he to do it? 4:2d (Cf. 2:25)

FYI: “The abruptness of these commands convey urgency – terminal urgency. Timothy must waste no time. He must get to it. It is clear that some of the commands are directed at Timothy’s reticence, at the things he did not naturally like to do. In truth, no preacher likes to do certain of these things, especially if he is the least bit shy or retiring. But Paul is insistent.”
- R. Kent Hughes (243)

“What should believers expect to be the standard of authority at their churches? Feelings? Intellect? Tradition? Paul says there is only one standard by which a church is to properly function: God’s word. The Bible – and only the Bible - is the final authority for Christian individuals, families, churches, and even the broader culture.”
- Tony Evans (1443)

Great patience/longsuffering “How can we grow in patience?...Since patience is a fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5:22], then the simple answer is to walk by the Spirit. Commune with God. Abide in Jesus...Work the gospel deeply into your heart daily. Remember what patience God has shown you!”
- Platt et al. (206)

11. Summarize how Paul instructed Timothy concerning God’s *word/Scripture/gospel/truth/sound doctrine* in these letters.

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| 1 Tim. 4:13 | <i>“devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching”</i> |
| 4:16 | |
| 2 Tim. 1:8 | |
| 1:13,14 | |
| 2:1,2 | |
| 2: 15 | |
| 3:14-15 | |
| 4:2 | |

12. Read the following accounts in Acts of how Paul was prepared to preach the Word “*out of season*” (inopportune). Note the circumstances and how Paul responded.

| | Situation & Paul’s Response |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Acts 16:13 | |
| Acts 16:24-25 | |
| Acts 17:16-17, 22-23 | |

13. Why was it so urgent for Timothy to present the Word in every situation, in every way? 4:3a

- What will be more attractive to some people than hearing the truth? 4:3b,4 Why? (Compare Jeremiah 5:31,14:14; Acts 17:21)

FYI: “Myths are stories that tell of supposedly ancient events in order to justify the universe as it exists and to rationalize certain behaviors. Basically, myths serve the desires of people by using contrived history to substantiate and affirm their choices.”
- Charles Swindoll (227)

14. List the charges to Timothy in 4:5. *How would these qualities be needed in facing the opposition described in 4:3,4 and 2:16,23.*

FYI: Be sober “Paul says in effect, ‘Stability must characterize the faithful pastor in an upside down world. Remain steady as she goes. Stay balanced. Remain a model of self-control. Don’t attempt to compete with the ear ticklers. An insane world needs a steady voice.’”
- Charles Swindoll (228)

Applying the Word: *What do you see as things today that “itching ears” want to hear? Why do you think it is often hard to get people to study and stay in the Word?*

Day 3

Faithfulness. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-15

15. What did Paul know would happen soon? 4:6 (See Philippians 2:17) What word did he use to refer to death?

FYI: “*I am already being poured out as a drink offering*: A drink offering brought wine before the Lord and poured it out at His altar. It was a way to give wine to God as a sacrifice, just as an animal might be given as a sacrifice...**Poured out** has the idea of a *complete* giving, with no reservation. The liquid is completely emptied from the cup, and totally given to God.”
- David Guzik (See Numbers 28:7)

Departure “is used in the Greek literature to describe the loosing of a ship from its moorings or a soldier loosing the stakes of his tent. It pictures a ship lifting anchor, tossing off the ropes, and rising on the tide so the winds can carry her to sea...It is clear that Paul did not think of himself as about to be executed but rather as offering himself to God. From the time of his conversion on the Damascus Road, everything he had was given to God...For years the red blood of his life had been spilling onto the altar. Now all that remained was his life’s breath, and he triumphantly gave that.”
- R. Kent Hughes (250)

16. In spite of the erosion Paul was already seeing in the ministry, what confidence did Paul have about the work he had done and his relationship with God? 4:7 List the “I have” phrases.

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(See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

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(See Acts 20:24; Hebrews 12:1,2)

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(See 2 Tim. 1:12; Romans 1:16)

17. What did Paul trust the Lord to give him after death? 4:8

- In Philippians 1:21-23, what view did Paul have of death? (See Paul’s vision of heaven in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4.)

FYI: “A football team can perform poorly during the first quarter – or even during the first half of the game. But what’s most important is how they finish. Don’t, then, look backward on the mess in your past. The grace of God can cover it. Instead, look forward. There’s still time. Fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith. Your reward is waiting.”
- Tony Evans (1444)

“This is most probably the last letter the apostle ever wrote and it is impossible to see him in a more advantageous point of view than he now appears, standing on the verge of eternity, full of God, and strongly anticipating an eternity of glory.” (Clarke)
- David Guzik

18. Underline the joys of heaven that we can anticipate.

- 2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
- 1 Corinthians 2:9,10 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit...
- Ephesians 2:6-7 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus
- Psalm 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

- Psalm 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.
- Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
- Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
- Philippians 3:20.21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

19. What did Paul ask of Timothy? 4:9 *What do you think his visit would have meant to Paul personally? To the ministry?*

FYI: “*Come to me quickly*...It would not be an easy journey nor a particularly quick one given travel conditions in the first century. Rome was over 1000 miles from Ephesus. Still, with the typical delays in the Roman judicial system, Paul anticipates that if Timothy hurries (and gets on a boat before the shipping closes down for winter – v. 21) there will be adequate time for him to reach Rome before his trial.” - L. Coleman and R. Peace (62)

20. From 4:10-15, record what Paul says about each of the following individuals. What faithfulness or unfaithfulness did they show?

(4:10) **Demas** (See Philemon 1:24) *What pressures might he have caused him to flee?*

Crescens

Titus (2 Corinthians 7:6; 8:16,17)

(4:11) **Luke** (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24 – *Demas is also mentioned.*)

Mark (Acts 15:37-39)

(4:12) **Tychicus** (Colossians 4:7)

(4:13) **Carpus**

FYI: “*he loved this world*...Demas left because he fell in love with the world. The ‘world’ is that system which stands in opposition to God. To love it instead of God is to opt for the temporal instead of the eternal.”

- Coleman and Peace (62)

“Paul never counted ‘rugged individualism’ among his chief attributes. He surrounded himself with people without becoming a people-pleaser; he drew strength and comfort from his colleagues without compromising his dependence on the Lord...Paul, perhaps the most stalwart, resilient, long-suffering, faithful follower of Christ in the entire Bible, didn’t suffer without asking for help. As a man of grace, who extended grace to so many, he believed in grace enough to ask for it and to receive it gratefully when offered.”

- Charles Swindoll (245)

21. What other request did Paul make? 4:13

- If Timothy and Mark arrived before Paul's death, what kind of discussions/instructions do you imagine were going on between Paul, Luke, Timothy and Mark? *What might Paul have wanted to do with the **scrolls** (possibly Paul's copy of Old Testament scriptures) and **parchments** (which may have contained his own personal notes or accounts of Jesus' words and deeds.)*

22. What phrase in 4:14 and 4:15 describe how Alexander had hurt Paul? (*Possibly the Alexander mentioned in 1 Tim. 1:20*)

- In whose hands did Paul leave him? 4:14b (See Romans 12:19; Gal. 6:7)
- How did he advise Timothy about Alexander? 4:15

FYI: "The **harm** likely came from Alexander's informing on Paul because that is what the Greek suggests. Alexander, in fact, may have been the direct cause of his arrest. So Timothy and Mark must be on their guard against him."
- R. Kent Hughes (262)

"Paul didn't expose Alexander in order to embarrass him for two thousand years. He called attention to the danger of Alexander as a warning to Timothy. Paul would soon die. Alexander would remain. As one teacher of truth passed from the scene, the apostate would simply train his sights on the next."
- Charles Swindoll (244)

Applying the Word: *Who do you turn to when you are hurting and in need of help? How do they comfort you? Who would trust in you for help when they are hurting?*

Day 4

The Lord's Strengthening and Grace. Read 2 Timothy 4:16-22

23. What happened at Paul's first/preliminary hearing? 4:16a (Compare Luke 23:34)

- What was Paul's attitude? 4:16b (Compare Luke 23:34; Acts 7:59,60)

24. What did the Lord do for Paul? 4:17a (Compare Acts 24:10,11ff)

Digging Deeper

See also the testimony Paul made before Felix (Acts 24) and King Agrippa (Acts 26).

25. What good work came out of Paul's imprisonment and trial? 4:17b (Compare Philippians 1:12-14)

FYI: "All the Gentiles...It is quite possible that this event took place in the forum itself...But at any rate it would be held in a court to which the public had access, and the Roman public at this time was the most representative in the world...He preached Christ, and through those who were present and heard him the fact would be made known throughout the civilized world that in that imperial city and before the imperial bench the Apostle of Christ had proclaimed the coming of his kingdom (Plummer, quoted by Stott)." - Coleman and Peace (63)

26. What was the outcome of Paul's first trial? 4:17c What this would give Paul time to do?

FYI: "Nero's campaign to scapegoat Christians not only turned killing them into a spectacle, it made their persecution fashionable...All kinds of allegations put believers before judges for condemnation. They were accused of hatred against humanity and convicted of atheism, because they worshiped a God who cannot be seen, and they refused to acknowledge the gods of Roman fantasy....[Paul] was living under a regime in which truth had become irrelevant and logic conscripted to serve the emperor's whims." - Charles Swindoll (248)

27. Why was Paul confident about the future? 4:18 (See 2 Corinthians 5:1)

FYI: "*Rescue me from every evil attack* – was not an expectation of deliverance from death but rather that no evil attack would undermine his faith or his courage or cause him to lapse into disastrous sin. Furthermore, this death would deliver him once and for all from all evil." - R. Kent Hughes (269)

Paul "is sitting in a dungeon awaiting trial, although the verdict is a foregone conclusion; he will face the executioner's sword. Except for Dr. Luke, he has no one to comfort him. Cold, hungry, lonely, aching, and probably sick, he endures injustice without bitterness. He had been deserted at his trial by everyone, but he held no grudges. He might possibly die alone like a common criminal, yet we find no self-pity in his final words. In a real sense, Paul faces a kind of personal Gethsemane. The result of his crushing could have been bitter bile or sweet grace." - Charles Swindoll (247)

28. How do Paul's words parallel words from Psalm 22 (which Jesus quoted at his death)?

- 22:1,11
- 22:21
- 22:27,28

29. To whom did Paul send a special greeting? 4:19

FYI: *Priscilla* and *Aquila*: Acts 18:2,3,26; Romans 16:3,4; Colossians 4:9. *Onesiphorus* 2 Timothy 1:16

"Though Paul was a scholar, a preacher, and a missionary, it seems he was also a relational individual. He knew the value of godly friendships. In the final chapter of Romans, Paul's closing comments include 33 names. He prayed for his friends constantly, recognizing that they were gifts of grace." - Platt et al. (156)

30. What helpful information about the ministry was passed along to Timothy? 4:20

FYI: Eratus: Romans 16:23; Acts 19:22. **Trophemus:** Acts 20:4; 21:29)

31. What urgency did Paul give to Timothy’s visit? 4:21a

FYI: “The ancient shipping lanes...were considered closed to traffic from November 10 to March 10. Paul had once been shipwrecked when his ship tried to beat the season [Acts 27]. It was now or never!” – R. Kent Hughes (270)

32. By sending greetings from friends (never mentioned elsewhere in scripture) what honor did Paul give them? 4:21b *Consider: If they lived in the area, why weren’t they at his trial?*

FYI: “These four new friends show how faithful saints through the years have blessed the body of Christ. While they are unknown to us, they were not unknown to God. Your service to Jesus does not go unnoticed either! The church has been blessed, enriched, and strengthened throughout the ages by unsung heroes.” - Platt et al. (221)

33. In closing, what blessing did Paul pass along to Timothy and to his readers? 4:22 (“Your” is singular and meant for Timothy. “You” is plural and meant for all readers.)

- As Paul passed on the torch, what would you say about the heart of Paul and his ministry?

FYI: “So Paul’s terminal words and wish was that God’s unmerited favor, forgiveness, and enabling power would be showered upon his children. ‘Grace be with **you.**’” - R. Kent Hughes (271)

Applying the Word: *Think of someone who needs to receive grace from you. How does Paul’s example help you? What can you do to offer grace to that person?*

Who do you turn to when you are hurting and in need of help? How do they comfort you? Who would trust in you for help when they are hurting?

Memory verse:
 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
 for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 2 Timothy 3:16,17 NKJ