

2 Timothy 4:16-18

By Peter Reyes

Theme: God's unchanging support even when human support fails

I. THE REALITY OF MINISTRY LONELINESS (v.16)

Verse 16 (KJV)

"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge."

Key Points

- Paul stands alone during his defense—no friends, no colleagues, no supporters.
- The ministry often includes seasons where leaders feel abandoned or unsupported.
- Paul models forgiveness, not bitterness.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalm 142:4** — *"No man cared for my soul."*
- **Luke 23:34** — Jesus' forgiveness at the cross.

II. THE FAITHFUL PRESENCE OF THE LORD (v.17a)

Verse 17a (KJV)

"Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me..."

Key Points

- When people fail, **God stands**.
- God provides strength that human support cannot supply.
- Pastoral endurance flows not from human applause but divine presence.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Joshua 1:5** — "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."
- **Psalm 27:10** — When others forsake, God receives.

III. GOD STRENGTHENS US FOR OUR ASSIGNMENT (v.17b)

Verse 17b (KJV)

"...that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear..."

Key Points

- God's strength is given **for mission**, not just comfort.

- Support enables proclamation—not self-preservation.
- Paul’s seemingly lonely moment becomes a platform for wider ministry impact.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Jeremiah 20:9** — The fire of calling cannot be extinguished.
- **Acts 18:9–10** — “Be not afraid... for I am with thee.”

IV. DELIVERANCE, PRESERVATION, AND ASSURANCE (v.17c–18)

Verses 17c–18 (KJV)

“...I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom...”

Key Points

- God not only delivered Paul—He promises continued deliverance.
- Past deliverance builds present faith and future hope.
- God preserves His servants until their work is finished.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Daniel 6:22** — God closes the mouths of lions.
- **Psalms 121:7–8** — God preserves His people in all their going and coming.

V. APPLICATION: WHAT PASTORAL SUPPORT MEANS FOR THE CHURCH

- 1. People may fail you, but God never will.**
- 2. True support includes forgiveness, not resentment.**
- 3. God’s strength is sufficient, even when human support is lacking.**
- 4. Ministry continues because God empowers it—not because people applaud it.**
- 5. God preserves His servants until their earthly assignment is complete.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God sometimes allows His servants to experience moments of isolation?
2. How does Paul’s response of forgiveness convict or challenge you?
3. How can our church be more intentional in standing with those in ministry?