

Faithful to Christ – 2 Timothy 4:9-15

By Ensener Nerro

Recap

- Paul is writing to Timothy toward the end of his life.
- This is the final recorded letter before Paul is martyred.
- Paul encourages and challenges Timothy to remain faithful:
 - Fight the good fight
 - Keep the faith
 - Be a good soldier
 - Remember his calling
 - Do not be afraid—God has not given us the spirit of fear
 - Do not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord
 - Partake in the afflictions of the gospel
 - Endure suffering
- He warns him about the last days and reminds him of the Scriptures.
- He charges him to preach the Word:
 - To reprove, rebuke, and exhort
 - To remain faithful regardless of response

Observation: Paul himself is the example—he fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished his course (2 Timothy 4:7). He is not boasting but **modeling faithfulness to Christ**, the ultimate standard.

Challenge:

- Are we faithful to Jesus?
- Will we remain faithful until the end?
- Our faithfulness is measured not by people watching, but by Christ seeing our hearts.

Transition

- The passage we are covering tonight is not Paul preaching or teaching Timothy—it is essentially a **ministry update**.
- Paul specifically highlights eight men.
- While this is mostly informational, we can still learn from them about faithfulness, restoration, and dealing with opposition.
- Tonight, let's look at 2 Timothy 4:9-15 and examine each name mentioned.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:9-15

"Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus. The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words."

I – Timothy

Verses: 2 Timothy 4:9 & 4:13 *"Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: ... The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments."*

Comments & Observations:

- Timothy is Paul's son in the faith.
- He has done mission work with Paul, ministered with him for many years, ran errands, became a pastor, and helped establish churches.
- Timothy is reliable, teachable, and a joy to be with.
- **Connect:**
- But I wonder how Timothy would have been without Paul in the picture.
- Even with Paul, we see Paul needing to encourage Timothy to stay where he was (1 Timothy seemed to show Timothy wanted to leave Ephesus).
- Here in 2 Timothy, Paul is reminding him to remain faithful.

Christ Connection:

- Faithfulness to Christ is personal, not dependent on others.
- Paul could guide Timothy, but Timothy's faithfulness ultimately rested on **Jesus**.
- **Question:**
- Can we be faithful to God without Pastor Surface? Without Pastor Jon? Without our mentors?
- We need Christ's faithfulness as our foundation.
- **Transition:**
- Timothy is asked to come to Paul, but also to bring some of Paul's things from Carpus.

II – Carpus

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:13 *"The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments."*

Comments:

- We don't know much about Carpus. This is his only mention in Scripture.
- Carpus held onto Paul's items—likely a very hospitable and faithful man.

Connect:

- We have people like Carpus in our church—quiet, faithful servants who take care of ministers.
- Your care encourages faithfulness, even if it seems small.

Notes:

- Paul wanted three things:
- His **cloak**—practical warmth
- His **books**—letters or writings
- **Especially the parchments**—likely copies of Scripture

Christ Connection:

- Christ honors faithful service in practical ways.
- We are spoiled to have Scripture on phones—Carpus reminds us of the **value of God's Word**.

Transition:

- Let's go back in order to Demas.

III – Demas

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:10 *"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica."*

Comments:

- Demas was a fellow laborer (Philemon 1:24, Colossians 4:14).
- He forsook Paul, "having loved this present world."
- Forsake here is desertion under pressure, not necessarily doctrinal error.

Scripture:

- 1 John 2:15-16 — *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

Connect:

- Whatever Demas's exact sin, Paul uses strong language.
- This shows how **love for the world can lead to desertion**.

Christ Connection:

- Jesus never forsook us, even when we failed (Romans 5:8).
- Our faithfulness flows from His.

Question:

- Why do you serve Jesus? Your motivation matters.

Transition:

- Demas forsook Paul—but there is hope for restoration.

IV – John Mark

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:11 *"Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."*

Comments:

- John Mark had previously left Paul (Acts 13:13).
- Paul refused to take him on the second journey (Acts 15:36-41).
- Now restored and profitable for ministry.

Christ Connection:

- Christ restores those who fail. Grace makes restoration possible (Luke 15:11-32).

Challenge:

- You may have failed—Jesus calls you back.

V – Crescens

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:10 *"Crescens to Galatia."*

Comments:

- Only mentioned here.
- Sent to encourage the Galatian believers—quietly faithful.

Christ Connection:

- Faithful service doesn't have to be flashy to be used by Christ.

VI – Titus

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:10 *"Titus unto Dalmatia."*

Comments:

- Trusted companion, sent to a new mission field.
- Faithful in previous ministry (2 Corinthians 7, 8, 12; Titus 1:5).

Christ Connection:

- Faithfulness often involves stepping into the unknown, relying on Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20).

VII – Luke

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:11 *"Only Luke is with me."*

Comments:

- Beloved physician, faithful companion to Paul.
- Likely tended to Paul physically and emotionally.
- Recorded ministry in Luke and Acts.

Christ Connection:

- All professions can serve Jesus. Faithfulness looks like **care and presence**, not just preaching.

VIII – Tychicus

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:12 *"And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus."*

Comments:

- Sent to relieve Timothy, encourage the church.
- Trusted, reliable, faithful.

Christ Connection:

- Christ uses faithful companions to strengthen the body (Hebrews 10:24-25).

IX – Alexander the Coppersmith

Verses: 2 Timothy 4:14-15 *"Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words."*

Comments:

- Opposed Paul, did him much evil.
- Paul leaves vengeance to the Lord.

Christ Connection:

- Opposition is inevitable when serving Christ (John 15:18-20).
- Faithfulness means trusting Jesus even under attack.

Conclusion – Faithful to the Faithful One

- Spectrum of responses:
- **Faithful companions:** Timothy, Luke, Titus, Crescens, Tychicus
- **Those who falter:** Demas
- **Restored:** John Mark
- **Opposition endured:** Alexander

Christ is our model:

- Jesus never failed, never forsook us, endured for our sake.
- Our faithfulness is a response to His faithfulness.

Invitation:

- Are you counting on your own strength or **on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ?**

Closing Scripture:

- 1 Corinthians 15:58 — *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*