



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

## Chapter 4

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# Introduction

- This chapter is St. Paul's Final Testimony to Timothy:
  - ❖ Preach the Word (1-5)
  - ❖ St. Paul's triumphant confidence (6-8)
  - ❖ The Abandoned Apostle (9-16)
  - ❖ Faithfulness of the Lord (17-18)
  - ❖ Final greetings (19-22)



# Preach the Word (1-5)

- Charge: Timothy must heed St. Paul's testimony if he would be a godly pastor
- Before God: Even in the prison, St. Paul felt the presence of God and here he charges his disciple before Him who will judge us all
- His appearance: the reality of the Second Coming of the Lord which gives hope to the believers especially during the time of persecution



# Preach the Word (1-5)

- Timothy as a bishop was required to:
  - ❖ Know the word
  - ❖ Not to be ashamed of the word
  - ❖ Hold fast the sound word
  - ❖ Preach the word.
  - ❖ Handle rightly the word
  - ❖ Live by the word
  - ❖ Commit the word to others



# Preach the Word (1-5)

- Do we preach the word of God or ourselves?
- Be always ready to preach when it is easy and it is hard, when the fruit is evident and when it seems invisible
- The word should be held up against the lives of the people to let God do His work but with patience and longsuffering



# Preach the Word (1-5)

- Itching ears: they get their ears tickled with the language and accent of the person, abandoning the good and faithful preacher for the fine speaker
- Itching ears can be also an allergy to the word of God (cannot endure it)
- A popular teacher is not necessarily the most faithful teacher



# Preach the Word (1-5)

- When a man rejects God's truth, it is not that he believes in nothing; he will believe in *anything*
- *But you:* you should be different
- Timothy could not fulfill his ministry unless he kept careful attention
- There are plenty of wonderful blessings in serving God but there are also afflictions to be endured





# Preach the Word (1-5)

- Evangelism is an essential element in the ministry
- Fulfill your ministry: There may be many reasons why someone's ministry goes unfulfilled and each must be earnestly battled: The cares of the world, criticism and discouragement, sin, afflictions, love of money...etc



# Paul's Triumphant Confidence (6-8)



- A drink offering brought wine before the Lord and poured it out at His altar
- The idea of a drink offering is first presented in Genesis 35:14, where Jacob poured out a drink offering before the Lord as a sacrifice
- Poured out has the idea of a complete giving, with no reservation

# St. Paul's Triumphant Confidence (6-8)



- St. Paul was already being poured out
- His heart was on the executioner's block to make the ultimate sacrifice
- He looked upon his blood as the drink which was poured on the sacrificial offering
- The sentence of death been already passed upon him

# Paul's Triumphant Confidence (6-8)



- Good fight: According to the rules
- Throughout his ministry St. Paul used the picture of the race and the Christian being an athlete running that race
- It is important to persevere to the end (to finish the race)
- Kept the faith: both faith and works (fight) are essential

# St. Paul's Triumphant Confidence (6-8)



- There are two main words for **crown** in the New Testament
- One refers to a royal crown and the other to the victor's crown (the stephanos)
- Here St. Paul referred to the victor's crown

# St. Paul's Triumphant Confidence (6-8)



- St. Paul was about to be condemned and executed by an earthly court, but he was also going to be rewarded by a heavenly court
- This crown is for all of us, if we will set our focus on heaven and on the Lord who both walked the earth and now reigns in heaven, who is waiting to receive us



# The Abandoned Apostle (9-16)

- St. Paul needed and wanted companionship. He addressed and expressed his needs
- Demas was mentioned in St. Paul's earlier letters as a fellow worker but later he went astray (Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24). His previous faithfulness made it all more painful for him
- V. 11 is evidence of a restoration of trust in St. Mark from St. Paul



# The Abandoned Apostle (9-16)

- V. 13 tells us that it is likely that St. Paul was arrested at Troas, therefore committed his few books and this cloak – an outer garment – to the care of an honest man, Carpus.
- This cloak left in Troas shows us:
  - ❖ He gave up everything to serve the Lord.
  - ❖ He was almost completely forsaken by his friends
  - ❖ He had an independent mind
  - ❖ He did not care much for how he was dressed
  - ❖ He was an ordinary man with ordinary needs





# The Abandoned Apostle (9-16)

- St. Paul stayed a scholar to the end and wanted his books
- He especially wanted the parchments, which were portions of the Old Testament
- In 1 Tim 1:20, St. Paul mentioned Alexander as someone whose faith had suffered shipwreck
- God will judge us according to our works



# The Abandoned Apostle (9-16)

- St. Paul was all alone, but was not bitter that all forsook him
- St. Paul's first defense may have been his first imprisonment in Rome (spoken of at the end of Acts), or it could have been a first hearing under his current imprisonment



# Faithfulness of the Lord (17-18)

- The Lord stood by him and St. Paul served God faithfully during his first defense
- God had delivered St. Paul before so he had no doubt about God's power or goodness
- St. Paul just didn't know if this time his fate would end with be delivered out of the mouth of the lion or being preserved for His heavenly kingdom
- To Him be glory forever and ever: This reflects an optimism and joy in his heart



# Final Greetings (19-22)

- In his parting words, St. Paul's heart was for the people he knew
- He thought about others and not himself
- V. 20 shows that even St. Paul did not have miraculous healing powers to use at his own will



# Final Greetings (19-22)

- It is possible that Erastus and Trophimus were with St. Paul when he was arrested the second time, and that they remained in his company as far as Corinth and Miletus
- St. Paul dearly wanted to see his young disciple before he laid down his life for his Lord
- The last words of St. Paul reflect a man who simply loved the Lord and had received His grace



# Conclusion

- What is our responsibility toward the word of God?
- What are the reasons of itching ears and why it is dangerous?
- How does the drink offering symbolize St. Paul's martyrdom?
- What are the three requirements to receive the crown of righteousness?
- St. Paul was alone and abandoned but he was not bitter; why?