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By Dan Maines

2 Timothy 4

2 Timothy 4:1

I solemnly exhort you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.

† Paul reminds Timothy of the seriousness of his ministry. The appearing and judgment Paul speaks of were not in the distant future, but in their generation when Christ judged Jerusalem

and vindicated His kingdom (Matthew 16:27-28).

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction.

† The call was urgent. Timothy had to preach without ceasing, since the judgment was near. Correction and exhortation were needed in a time when deception and lawlessness abounded.

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires.

† This happened in the last days of the Old Covenant. Many rejected sound doctrine and followed flattering teachers. Josephus records how false prophets arose during the Jewish wars, telling people what they wanted to hear (Wars 6.5.2).

2 Timothy 4:4

And they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

† Many in Israel turned aside from Christ to myths, whether man-made traditions or false messianic claims. Jesus Himself warned in Matthew 24:24 that false prophets would arise, leading many astray.

2 Timothy 4:5

But as for you, use self-restraint in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

† Unlike the deceived, Timothy was to endure faithfully. The work of preaching was not easy, but it was his calling.

Endurance was the mark of true discipleship (Matthew 24:13).

2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

† Paul knows his execution is near. Eusebius records that Paul was martyred in Rome under Nero (Church History 2.25), and Clement of Rome also testifies to his sufferings and martyrdom (1 Clement 5). Paul saw his death as an offering of service.

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

† Paul looks back with confidence. He persevered through trials and persecution. Clement of Rome praises Paul's endurance, noting how he taught righteousness throughout the world and reached the farthest limits before being martyred (1 Clement 5). Paul's testimony stands as an example of faithful perseverance.

2 Timothy 4:8

In the future there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

† The crown was not only for Paul but for all believers who longed for Christ's appearing. Tertullian testifies that Paul was beheaded in Rome, receiving the martyr's crown (Prescription Against Heretics 36). Ignatius of Antioch, who also went to his own martyrdom, echoed the same spirit of longing to be faithful unto death (Letter to the Romans).

2 Timothy 4:9

Make every effort to come to me soon.

† Paul urges Timothy to come quickly. His end was near, and he longed for Timothy's presence before his death.

2 Timothy 4:10

For Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

† Demas turned away, choosing worldly safety over faithfulness. Paul contrasts his desertion with the endurance of true disciples. This fulfilled the very warning of people loving the world more than God (2 Timothy 3:4).

2 Timothy 4:11

Only Luke is with me. Take along Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

† In Paul's final days, Luke remained loyal. Mark, once unsteady, was now restored and useful for ministry. This shows God's power to redeem and strengthen servants.

2 Timothy 4:12

But I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

† Tychicus was a faithful co-worker, often sent to strengthen churches (Ephesians 6:21, Colossians 4:7). Paul continued to direct the mission even from prison.

2 Timothy 4:13

When you come, bring the overcoat, which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.

† Even facing death, Paul valued Scripture and writings. His devotion to the Word never ceased.

2 Timothy 4:14

Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will

repay him according to his deeds.

† Paul warns of enemies of the faith. God Himself would judge them, just as He was judging that generation.

2 Timothy 4:15

Be on guard against him yourself too, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.

† Timothy was to be watchful. Opposition was fierce, but vigilance and faithfulness were necessary.

2 Timothy 4:16

At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

† Paul shows grace even toward those who failed him. Tacitus describes how Christians were widely hated and abandoned under Nero's reign (Annals 15.44), which explains the desertion Paul experienced.

2 Timothy 4:17

But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

† Though men deserted him, the Lord never did. Paul's mission was fulfilled, the gospel reached the nations (Colossians 1:23). Chrysostom later preached that this verse proved God's faithfulness to strengthen Paul even in his darkest hour (Homilies on 2 Timothy).

2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and

ever. Amen.

† Paul faced death, but his confidence was unshaken. The Lord would preserve him, not from martyrdom, but for eternal glory.

2 Timothy 4:19

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

† Even in his final words, Paul remembered fellow laborers. His love for the saints never faded.

2 Timothy 4:20

Erastus remained at Corinth, but I left Trophimus sick at Miletus.

† These personal notes remind us of the humanity of the apostles. They lived and struggled in real history, facing sickness, travel, and hardship.

2 Timothy 4:21

Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters.

† Paul again urges Timothy to come quickly, as time was short. His earthly race was nearly finished.

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

† Paul's final blessing to Timothy reflects his entire ministry, centered in the Lord's grace and presence.

Application For Us Today

† Paul's charge to Timothy to preach the Word still applies today. We live after fulfillment, but the need for faithfulness to Scripture hasn't changed. In a world filled with itching ears, the

Word of God remains the only sure foundation.

† Like Timothy, we must guard against false teachers. They may not predict the fall of Jerusalem, but they still tickle ears with smooth words, prosperity promises, or sensational predictions. The answer is the same: cling to the Scriptures.

† Paul's perseverance inspires us. He fought the good fight and finished the course. For us, this means running our race with endurance, even when friends desert us or hardships arise. The crown of righteousness is not for Paul alone but for all who are faithful to Christ.

† Paul's closing requests remind us of his humanity. He still wanted fellowship, Scripture, and companionship. This shows us that even the strongest servants of God need encouragement and the presence of others.

† The fulfilled perspective gives us confidence. We aren't waiting for judgment to fall; it already has on the Old Covenant world. We live in Christ's kingdom now, called to faithfulness and endurance as Paul was.

† The exhortation for us is clear: preach the Word, endure hardship, remain faithful, and finish the race.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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† Matthew 16:27-28 - Christ's appearing and judgment in that generation

† Matthew 24:13 - endurance brings salvation

† Matthew 24:24 - false prophets misleading many

† Colossians 1:23 - gospel proclaimed to all creation under heaven

† Ephesians 6:21 - Tychicus as a faithful servant

- † Colossians 4:7 - Tychicus sent to encourage the churches
- † 1 Corinthians 9:24 - running the race to win
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