

II Timothy Chapter Four

v.1,2 – In the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who, when he comes back will judge the living (quick) and the dead. With authority, herald the gospel, and be prepared to preach in and out of season, convenient or not convenient. Patiently, with longsuffering, teach the true doctrine reproving and rebuking (showing what is wrong and chastising for it), exhort (showing what is right; correction).

v.3,4 – For the time will come (and is already here) that men and women won't want to hear the true gospel that challenges them to walk in the way of the Lord, which is usually contrary to our flesh; but they will, to satisfy their own desires, look around and run from teacher to teacher who will tell them what they want to hear. Those teachers will just tickle their ears; just scratch soothingly the little itch in their ears. They will actively turn from the truth and be turned toward myths (teaching not based on God's truth).

v. 5 – But you Timothy, on the contrary, be sober and vigilant, always looking for, holding up, the truth. Endure whatever hardships, for the sake of the gospel; be diligent in spreading the gospel to waiting, dying souls; and perform all of the tasks of your ministry, in the power of the Lord.

v. 6,7, 8 – FOR I AM NOW READY TO BE OFFERED AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND (I am going to die soon) Have fought a good fight (athletically, could also mean I have competed well), finished my course (race course, as in the Marathon), have kept the faith (followed the rules, did not foul out) (I Corinthians 9:24-27) Therefore there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness (Laurel reef of victory), as there is for all those who finish well, and are looking for the second coming of Jesus with joy.

v.9-15 – Closing: (Timothy) come to me as soon as you can; DEMAS (Col. 4:14; Phil.24) deserted Paul and God, going to Thessalonica; CRESCENS to Galatia and TITUS to Dalmatia (Yugoslavia) were probably just fulfilling their ministerial assignments; Only Luke was with Paul. Bring MARK (Barnabas cousin who deserted them in their missionary journey) This is the Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark, believed to have been dictated by Peter. TYCHICUS (Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7; Titus 3:12), who had delivered letters to the Ephesians and Colossians, was being sent to Ephesus, probably to take Timothy's place while Timothy traveled to Rome. There is no evidence that Timothy did or did not make it to Rome before Paul's death. Bring my cloak that I left with CARPUS at Troas (where Paul might have been arrested) and books and parchments. Beware ALEXANDER THE COPPERSMITH, who did evil to Paul, possibly being responsible for his being arrested, and has refuted Paul's teaching.

v.16-22- At some point Paul stood alone but the Lord strengthened him and delivered him "out of the mouth of the lion. He knows the Lord will deliver him from every evil work, even though he knows that he is about to die. Salute PRISCA, AQUILA and house of ONESIPHORUS. TROPHIMUS who did 3rd missionary journey left sick at Miletum and ERASTUS left at Corinth. Come before winter. EUBULUS, PUDENS, LINUS AND CLAUDIA and all the brethren greet you.