

Being a Minister for Christ

Lesson 10

2 Timothy 4:9-22

May 30, 2021

A Circle of Honor and Dishonor

Introduction

Paul wrote 2 Timothy from his prison cell in about A.D. 67 while he was being tried for spreading a new religion. While he was on trial and in prison, only a few of his friends visited him. Some were away on missions, but others had simply abandoned him. Whatever the case, Paul was alone most of the time, not only in his cell but also on the stand during the trial.

Or was he really alone? To hear Paul tell it, the Lord was with him and defending him. Although Paul did obviously miss human companionship, his trust was in the Lord, even to the point of declaring the gospel during his trial.

We also have our “seasons of winter” when we experience financial, physical, or emotional hardships. How we weather these storms tells a lot about our walk with the Lord. Will we blame others for not being there? Or will we trust in the promises of the Lord and declare His glory?

As you read this passage, think about how Paul must have felt in a cold, dank prison with no friends and not even a coat. Was he discouraged or joyful? Bitter or thankful? Paul’s trust in the Lord gave him the confidence to testify about God’s faithfulness, even though he was only weeks or maybe even just days away from a shameful and humiliating death.

Memory verse: “The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.”—2 Timothy 4:22

Pray and read 2 Timothy 4:9-22. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What actions did Paul ask Timothy to do? (2 Timothy 4:9, 11, 13, 19, 21)
2. What did Paul ask Timothy to bring when he visited? (2 Timothy 4:13)
3. How did Paul's friends disappoint and forsake him? (2 Timothy 4:10, 14, 16)
4. How did Paul say that the Lord will respond to these actions? (2 Timothy 4:14, 17, 18)
5. When did Paul ask Timothy to visit? (2 Timothy 4:21)

What does the passage mean?

1. How did Paul feel during this time alone in prison while waiting for his trial? What was his state of mind? (2 Timothy 4:9-18)

5. Clearly, Paul was leaning on Jesus Christ alone during his trials. How did Paul expect that Christ will ultimately deliver him? That is, did he expect to be found innocent by the court, or was he simply looking forward to his reward in Heaven? (2 Timothy 4:17-18)

Applying the passage

1. Has there been a trying time in your life when you felt alone with no one to support you? How much difference would it have made to have close friends with you? (2 Timothy 4:9-22)

