



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**"THE LORD WILL DELIVER ME!" - 2 TIMOTHY 4:18**

**COLORADO**

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*Paul had been delivered out of mortal danger time and time again in his life as he traveled the known world in order to share the gospel. His life was a testimony to God's faithfulness in adversity and strengthening in serving and proclaiming Christ. And the charge he had given Timothy to preach the word was now only reinforced through Paul's shining example set in the imperial court at a moment of great personal loneliness and peril and certain execution.<sup>1</sup>*

*Yes, God brought him before the highest court where the Apostle preached Christ. Paul didn't evade the challenges he charged Timothy with. Paul led the way for Timothy to follow.*

*The world's opposition is strong and subtle. And behind this stands the devil who hates Christ, the message of the Gospel and His messengers. 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us that "our adversary, the devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour". He seeks to dilute, deceive and even silence the proclamation of the gospel.*

## **I. "THE LORD WILL DELIVER ME!" - 2 TIMOTHY 4:18**

*(18) "The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." 2 Timothy 4:18*

Paul testified that though all had forsaken him, the Lord was with him and stood with him. (2 Timothy 4:17) Paul was deserted on every side and it seemed like the whole world was set against him, yet he was personally a witness that the Lord stood with him. And not only did God stand with Paul, Paul was confident and assured that God would deliver him as well. But how could that be? Paul has already acknowledged he was going to die; his life was being poured out as a "drink offering and the time of my departure has come." (2 Timothy 4:6) Is our view of deliverance the same as God's plan regarding deliverance for us?

## **A. "THE LORD WILL DELIVER ME FROM EVERY EVIL DEED"- 2 TIMOTHY 4:18A**

First note that Paul was assured of deliverance from no one other than "The Lord". Paul would not look to any ruler like Nero, or any other person or friend for deliverance. Only the Lord Jesus Christ!

Second we must note the confidence with which Paul wrote. "The Lord will..." There was no uncertainty in his words. Paul was absolutely assured of God's deliverance. The assurance for future deliverance came from the experience of past deliverance by God. Paul was certain of his rescue. He saw beyond these present hardships to future realities and knew that his eternal safety was secure. Remember how he had written during his first imprisonment in Rome. "to live is Christ, to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21) And in 2

Corinthians 5:8 he wrote, "absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." Paul's life was all about Christ; preaching Christ and proclaiming Christ. Paul would use even a Roman court or a Roman dungeon to proclaim the message of Christ. And he was certain of his ultimate rescue. There was no doubt. How could he say that? How can we be assured of the same?

Thirdly, note there was not one thing that the Lord wouldn't deliver Paul from. Paul says, "The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed". This refers to any and every kind of evil deed, or vicious attacks by his enemies or satan. Just as Jesus Christ stood with him, so Christ would continue to deliver him from every evil work.

Now Paul knows God didn't mean He would protect him from all physical harm. (Acts 14:22) We only need to remember that Paul was in the Mamartine Prison, plus all the adversity he faced along his many journeys. So that couldn't be what Paul was saying with such certainty. Paul is thinking beyond such difficult and painful hardships that he faced. You see, Paul had an eternal perspective. He knew that no assault from the enemy in any form would ever undermine his faith and courage in adversity. Paul didn't expect deliverance from persecution or even martyrdom. But, clearly Paul *did* expect something. He was assured and expected divine protection so that he would triumphantly overcome every evil arrayed against him and that he would enter God's heavenly kingdom.<sup>2</sup>

How often is our focus on the hard issues we face in life; the persecution and maybe even emotional harm, demoralizing lies and possibly even physical injury? Those are the things we want deliverance from. They are real, and they are hard. Yet, if we have an eternal perspective on life, we must understand those hardships are temporary. And more, they are opportunities for the gospel to be proclaimed in some way. Look at Paul's life; he shared the gospel in the highest Roman courts and the lowest Roman dungeons. If we consider Paul, his entire focus was to use every opportunity to proclaim Christ. As a believer, that must be the view from which we not only see life but live life.

Paul knew Jesus Christ would not only stand with him and keep him, but would also continue to deliver him from every evil work. We can have that absolute confidence as well. Although Paul was expecting death, most importantly he knew nothing would undermine his faith or the future promises of his faith in Jesus Christ. Of course the pain, loneliness, physical suffering and persecutions would make the prospect of heaven all the more appealing, Yet, Paul would not give up until the Lord took him home. Paul was assured that God would

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

# Colorado

## **“THE LORD WILL DELIVER ME!” - 2 TIMOTHY 4:18**

(18) *“The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”*  
2 Timothy 4:18

stand with him, strengthen him for the work He called him to do and deliver him from every form of evil. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you have the very same promises as Paul and can be assured with certainty that the Lord will stand with you and deliver you as well. Remember, Jesus said this, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) It will be hard here, but Jesus has overcome the world. Paul was certain of his rescue and you can be just as assured.

### **B. “AND WILL BRING ME SAFELY TO HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM” - 2 TIMOTHY 4:18B**

The completion of every believer’s salvation will be when God brings us home to heaven. Paul was safe for eternity and so is every believer in Jesus Christ. It is God’s work that leads us home to His heavenly kingdom, therefore there is nothing that can keep us from the joys of heaven.

Paul was confident of heaven. In a most real sense, death would be deliverance for Paul. Romans 6:26 reminds us that we will all die for *“the wages of sin are death”*. All have sinned as Romans 3:23 reminds us. There is no one who doesn’t sin. The consequence of sin is death and clearly all die. From the beginning of the first sin in Genesis 3, the result is that all die. Genesis 5 is a record of death and testifies to the truth that with sin came death as God’s judgment on sin. The physical death we all face points to a more serious spiritual death which is a separation between God and every human because of our sin. Romans 6:26 goes on to say this, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* For eternity we deserve to be separated from God forever, yet because of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross as payment for our sin, we can have life by repenting of our sin before God and believing in Jesus Christ to be saved. (Acts 4:12) Then, as Romans 6:26 says, *“the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Salvation is a gift we could never earn. It is a free gift given by God to us if we repent and believe in Jesus Christ alone. And as a result, we will spend eternity in heaven forever with God. This is the completion of our salvation. Paul was supremely confident in our Lord’s promise that, He would bring him safely to His heavenly kingdom. That was around the corner for Paul and is a promise that awaits every genuine believer in Jesus Christ! Wow!

### **C. “TO HIM BE THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER.” - 2 TIMOTHY 4:18C**

Here’s Paul. He remembers what God has done for him. He’s not oblivious to his hardships for they are very raw and real. But his heart and mind contemplate on what the Lord has done...and will do.

And what results? Paul’s soul is filled with such praise to the Lord. Imagine, he is in a dungeon unjustly accused, wrongly persecuted and enduring heartache upon heartache. Paul is facing imminent death by beheading and yet Christ filled his horizon... *“to Him be the glory forever and ever.”* He knew he would be with Christ which was far better than this life. (Philippians 1:23) Christ would give him the crown of righteousness. (2 Timothy 4:8) He knew for certain that Christ held his citizenship and would transform his lowly body. (Philippians 3:20-21) To Christ be glory forever and ever!<sup>3</sup>

No matter what any man may do, Paul was assured and comforted by these truths and he could praise God in his cold cell as he wrote Timothy. Can you imagine what comfort it was to Timothy that the Lord was so encouraging the heart of his spiritual father in the faith. Though tears may have come to his eyes as he read these words penned, what resolve in his heart was born as a result?

Because God gives us the strength, He gives us the message, He protects us from evil and will ultimately bring us to heaven; then God deserves the glory.<sup>4</sup>

As Paul must have dwelt on God’s divine power, and His goodness in spite of such hardship, he breaks out with a sweet doxology of praise to the Lord. May our hearts bring forth such sweet praise as we remember Who God is and what He has done for us specifically. May we praise Him, our dear Lord...in the midst of our life. And come what may...to God be the glory!

### **D. “AMEN.” - 2 TIMOTHY 4:18D**

Paul could face death with peace because of his relationship with his faithful Lord Jesus Christ. So can every believer. Paul stood, confident that the Lord would rescue him from evil and bring him to heaven.<sup>5</sup> Thus Paul seals his personal ratification of this glorious hope with *“Amen”* which means; let it be Lord, let it be!

Can you face death with confident assurance that Jesus Christ will bring you safely to His heavenly kingdom? If you can’t answer that with a confident yes, please talk to me after this study!

*To Christ be the glory forever and ever! Amen!*

<sup>1</sup>Stott, John R.W., *The Message of 2 Timothy; Guard the Gospel*. Inter-Varsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1973. Pg. 125.

<sup>2</sup>Griffin, Jr, Hayne P. and Lea, Thomas D., *The New American Commentary; 1, 2 Timothy, Titus*. B&H Publishing: Nashville, TN. 1992. Pg. 257.

<sup>3</sup>Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 270.

<sup>4</sup>Platte, David; Akin, Daniel L.; Merida, Tony, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, Tennessee, 2013. Pg.223.

<sup>5</sup>Platte, David; Akin, Daniel L.; Merida, Tony, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, Tennessee, 2013. Pg.223.