



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

THE LORD BE WITH YOU! GRACE BE WITH YOU! - 2 TIMOTHY 4:19-22

COLORADO

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As Paul comes to the end of his life, we see his thoughts captivated by God's divine power, and His goodness in spite of the hardship he was living through. With his attention on the Lord, rather than certain death by execution, Paul breaks out with a sweet doxology of praise to his dear Lord. May our hearts bring forth such sweet praise as we remember Who God is and what He has done. May we praise Him, our dear Lord...in the midst of our life! And come what may...to God be the glory!

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.¹ Thus Paul seals his personal ratification of this glorious hope with "Amen", which means; let it be Lord, let it be! (2 Timothy 4:18)

May this be the sweet doxology of our lives: To Christ be the glory forever and ever! Amen!

I. THE LORD BE WITH YOU! GRACE BE WITH YOU! - 2 TIMOTHY 4:19-22

(19) "Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. (20) Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. (21) Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren. (22) The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." 2 Timothy 4:19-22

As we come to the close of this book and the close of the Apostle Paul's life and final words, what will you take with you from this four year-long study? Paul began in 2 Timothy 1:2 with "to Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." And he ends this letter to Timothy with these words in 2 Timothy 4:22, "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you."

A. WARM GREETINGS TO PRISCA AND AQUILA - 2 TIMOTHY 4:19

Paul sends his greetings to Prisca (also known as Pricilla) and Aquila. They were a godly couple and special friends of Paul. They lived in Rome for a time until they fled from Italy when Emperor Claudius ordered all Jews to be expelled from Rome. As fellow tent makers, they met Paul on his second missionary journey in Corinth. (Acts 18:1-3) We learn from Acts 18:18-19 that Prisca and Aquila travelled with Paul to Ephesus. They were responsible for planting churches and nurturing believers in those churches. (See Acts 18:18-26, 1 Corinthians 16:19 and Romans 16:3-5 for how God used this godly couple) They risked their lives to save Paul's and sacrificed time, money and reputation for the gospel. As close friends for a long time, Paul sends his warm greetings to them by way of Timothy. Clearly Paul may never see them this side of heaven again.

B. WARM GREETINGS TO HOUSEHOLD OF ONESIPHORUS - 2 TIMOTHY 4:19

Paul extends his greeting to the household of Onesiphorus whom he had mentioned earlier in 2 Timothy 1:16-18. Do you remember what we learned about this man from these verses? It's worth reading them again. "The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chains; but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me, and found me, the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus."

The name Onesiphorus means profitable and he was certainly that to Paul. This guy sought Paul out in Rome...in prison to "refresh" Paul often. This word doesn't just refer to a material or physical sense, but soul refreshment. He visited this aging Apostle and ministered to his needs there in prison without fear and without shame and not once or twice, but "often", frequently. He wasn't content with just one visit but multiple.

And Paul writes that Onesiphorus was "not ashamed of my chains". (2 Timothy 1:16) He befriended and ministered to Paul while he was there in a Roman prison even though the travel was far and it put his own life in danger. While many deserted, this one remained loyal. While others feared for their own lives in the face of Paul's chains, not Onesiphorus. He cared for Paul, counting it a privilege to share with Paul the reproach he bore for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The third praise Paul gives is that "when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me, and found me," (2 Timothy 1:17) As the aging Paul sat isolated and alone in a cold dungeon cell, imprisoned for proclaiming the gospel, Onesiphorus found him. Can you imagine what joy and encouragement that must have brought Paul? The word "searched" carries the idea that he searched hard, went to great trouble, and was very determined to find Paul. It required much effort, time and probably involved danger.

Think about it, Onesiphorus would have asked questions, inquiring of Paul the prisoner and where was he held. He would have knocked on doors, followed clues, and even placed himself in danger looking for this prisoner who was to be executed by Rome. Maybe the location of Paul's imprisonment had been kept from other Christians. After all, Nero had already burned the city and blamed Christians for it. Believers in Rome had been persecuted, killed and many had fled the city. Who would place their life in danger by even associating with Paul; a leader of this rebellious group? And it was

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dangerous enough to find him the first time, but Onesiphorus “eagerly searched”, couldn’t wait to find him, not just once but time and time again! He ministered to Paul whom he obviously loved dearly without fear for his own life and without shame for Jesus Christ or His messenger. Paul was clearly moved with the love extended to him by Onesiphorus as expressed in his words, *“the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day”* from 2 Timothy 1:18 seeking even the favor of God on his behalf for his kindness. He was a man who ministered to Paul, obeyed Jesus Christ and was faithful to the gospel. What a model for Timothy to imitate. He was devoted, determined and courageous. What a life for us to imitate in giving ourselves for others so sacrificially.

C. LAST ENCOURAGEMENTS - 2 TIMOTHY 4:20-21

Before Paul closes his letter, he informs Timothy about two common friends, Erastus and Trophimos. And sends greetings from Paul’s believing companions in Rome; Eubulus, Pudens, Linus and Claudia, as well as, all the Christian brethren in Rome.

And he makes a fatherly request for Timothy to *“make every effort to come before winter.”* It wasn’t just for his cloak and parchments. Paul wanted to see his son in the faith. The ancient shipping lanes on the Mediterranean Sea were considered closed during the winter months of November to March because travel was so dangerous and almost impossible. Paul had already once been shipped-wrecked when his ship tried to beat the season. Timothy would have to try and leave as soon as possible on this long journey of at least 6 months.

We don’t know, but surely Timothy was with Luke and John Mark when Paul was taken outside the city and beheaded at the Ostian Gate. We know the Lord stood with him and strengthened him in his last hour! The Lord will do the same for every believer!

D. PARTING WORDS - 2 TIMOTHY 4:22

These are the last recorded words from Paul, *“The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.”* (2 Timothy 4:22) As we close this book, are you grateful for the example of Paul’s life and the legacy preserved by God for us? Paul experienced God’s **amazing grace**, he testified by his life to the **gospel of grace** and closed by praying that the **Lord’s grace** would strengthen and empower his son in the faith and then extends it to all believers in Jesus Christ.

“The Lord be with your spirit.” Paul wrote these words most personally to Timothy by using the singular, personal pronoun in the Greek, **“your”**. It was God’s unmerited favor that had given Paul the ability to live as a faithful follower in Jesus Christ, all the way to the end. This was Paul’s prayer for his son; that the Lord would strengthen Timothy personally so that he might be able to face the opposition and suffering ahead faithfully. This benediction Paul

leaves with Timothy in writing was with the hopes of seeing him one last time in person.

“Grace be with you.” Paul had concern for Timothy, but also for the whole church. Paul deliberately uses a plural pronoun in the Greek here for **“you”**. He knew nothing could sustain the church like God’s sovereign, abundant grace desiring that God’s unmerited favor, enabling power and strength would be showered on every believer in Jesus Christ. We are all... *always in need of the Lord’s grace.*

We are all engaged in this race of life and we must remember we are not called to **“win”** the race, but rather to **“run”** it. Faithfulness to **“run”** this race will only come from the Lord; resting and relying in the Savior’s grace and strength to finish the course! May we be able to say as Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up 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.”* 2 Timothy 4:6-8

And thus Paul closes this letter to Timothy and the church, with a sweet expression of grace personally to Timothy and publically to the church whom he so loved. Timothy would carry that blessing with him to the end. And for those of us who remain, we still have work to do. Remember your charge and the grace in which you stand.

“I solemnly charge 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: preach the word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”

2 Timothy 4:1-2

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 2:1

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

2 Timothy 4:22

¹Platte, 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.