

## 2 TIMOTHY 4

### Intro.

1. I would imagine that this is most preachers favorite chapter of the Bible when it comes to the work of a preacher.
2. Besides what has been written about Jesus, I doubt there has been any person more written about than the apostle Paul.
3. I've said before that I believe that he is the greatest mere human that has ever lived.
4. What we have before us are the last known written words of Paul.
5. When you read it, you can feel an urgency in the words that were given him by the Holy Spirit.
6. These are the words of a man who knew his death was imminent.
7. These words needed to count and they could not be wasted words and they were not.
8. We often talk about firsts when it comes to things: first steps, first words.
9. This is a chapter of lasts and that is how we are going to divide up this chapter as we discuss Paul's last words.

### I. The last charge (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

- a. The word "charge" was as a strong a word as Paul could use to encourage Timothy to preach the message of the gospel.
  - i. It literally means to charge earnestly.
  - ii. With everything Paul had, he was pleading with Timothy to preach the pure gospel of Jesus Christ.
- b. To bring more weight, Paul reminded Timothy who was involved in this charge:
  - i. God the Father, from whom all spiritual blessings come.
  - ii. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is to be the Judge of all the living and dead when He returns.
  - iii. Paul was calling Timothy to remember that God the Father and God the Son were watching what he would do and that he, Timothy, was working on their behalf, not Paul's.
- c. There were numerous things bearing down on Paul:
  - i. Being imprisoned;
  - ii. Facing death;
  - iii. Knowing the departures from the faith that were soon to come.
- d. Paul charged Timothy to preach the word.
  - i. This is the word from God.
  - ii. Paul was specific in what needed to be preached.
  - iii. He did not leave it up to Timothy as to what needed to be preached.
  - iv. It was and is a singular message that must be expressed, which is seen by the words following the charge to preach.
- e. Timothy had to preach no matter what the situation was – be instant, or ready.
- f. When he did, his preaching was to accomplish three things:
  - i. Reproving, rebuking, exhorting.
  - ii. Notice the shortness of each word: very simple imperative words.
  - iii. Along with the tense of each word, which indicates a direct, impassioned plea, this shows the forceful nature of Paul's charge to Timothy.
  - iv. This was something Paul saw as having to be done in an urgent manner.
- g. Preach means to be a herald of a message that is God's and not man's.

- i. Timothy, and all preachers, or teachers, are to use God's word to speak for God.
  - ii. We have no liberty to speak anything else.
  - iii. This shows the greatness of preaching: there is no nobler venture than to be a spokesman for God.
- h. Reprove means to convict of error, to confute those who are in error.
  - i. Preaching involves showing where people are standing against God and His message.
  - ii. Preachers and teachers have to be able to prove someone wrong by using God's word.
- i. Rebuke means to give a sharp, strong rebuke with the suggestion of an impending penalty.
  - i. Sin must be confronted and rebuked.
  - ii. The reason for the rebuke is that there is a penalty for remaining in the sin.
- j. Exhort is to encourage someone to stay beside the Lord.
  - i. This is a positive term for encouraging Christians to continue with God.
  - ii. It is a word that carries comfort and encouragement to look forward.
- k. The reason for preaching in this manner is that Paul had been allowed to see a coming time when Christians would not want to hear the gospel message.
  - i. They will not endure, which carries the idea of standing firm or holding up under.
  - ii. They would not bear sound or healthy doctrine, but will want something that would make them feel good about themselves as they were, not as God wants them to be.
  - iii. David Lipscomb wrote that it would be a preaching that offered peace to a troubled conscience yet would allow the old self-indulgent life to go on.
- l. Gospel preachers have to be on guard against this temptation and be ready to endure the afflictions that will come from not giving in to the wishes of others.
- m. Timothy, and all preachers, was charged with doing all that a preacher is supposed to do and to live it out in his life.

## II. The last reminders (2 Timothy 4:6-15).

- a. Paul knew things were about to end in this life for him and said that he was ready to be offered, or poured out, which is an allusion to the drink offering of the Old Testament.
- b. Paul reminded Timothy of the fact that he was prepared because he had done what God had called him to do.
  - i. Paul used to athletic metaphors in fight and course.
  - ii. Fight has to do with wrestling and course has to do with running.
  - iii. The word faith has to do with wrestling and running by the rules of the contest as well as staying true to the doctrine of Christ.
- c. Because of his adherence to the rules of the contest and staying true to the doctrine of Christ, Paul knew there was a crown waiting for him.
- d. Paul had done his best and was now being able to go home.
- e. In order to help Timothy after his departure, Paul gave a list of helpers and hinderers.
  - i. Those that helped were Crescens, Titus, Luke, John Mark, and Tychicus.
  - ii. Those that hindered were Demas, who had deserted Paul, and Alexander who had stood against the words of the gospel in a powerful way.
  - iii. Later in the text, Erastus and Trophimus are mentioned as being those that helped.
- f. Paul was leaving and Timothy needed to know that he could not lean on him any longer, but there were those who could help him.
- g. It is also a reminder that not everyone would remain faithful and helpful.
  - i. Demas is mentioned in two other places as a helper.

- ii. Something came about that changed Demas, some danger to his life it seems.
- iii. People change but the Lord doesn't, which Paul mentions later.
- h. We need to know that we can only count on people so much, knowing that they are human like us and prone to error.

### III. The last farewells (2 Timothy 4:16-22).

- a. When Paul first stood to answer for the faith that he taught, no one stood with him but the Lord.
  - i. This seems to be when Paul was arrested and jailed in Rome the second time.
  - ii. His first imprisonment in Rome is found in Acts.
- b. Paul remarks about the faithfulness of the Lord.
  - i. He stood with Paul so that the Gentiles could hear the gospel.
  - ii. His faith never wavered, even in the face of impending death.
  - iii. He knew that he would be delivered, which is the hope of all Christians.
  - iv. Death is not a defeat but a deliverance for a faithful Christian.
- c. He then sends his farewell to his wonderful friends who had risked much it seems in their friendship with Paul.
  - i. He used a shortened term of the name Priscilla, which was probably a nickname showing their friendship.
  - ii. This couple had risked their lives for Paul.
- d. He sends a farewell to Onesiphorus and his household.
- e. We see that he asks for the cloak, and the books and parchments.
  - i. We wonder if Timothy and Mark made it to him before his death.
  - ii. Did he have any comfort before his death from those things for which he asked?
- f. These are questions for which we can't get answers in this life.

### Conclusion

1. Whenever I read the last chapter of Deuteronomy, I am saddened because of what Moses missed out on.
2. This chapter is sad, but it is also heartwarming because we know that Paul missed out on nothing because of his faithfulness.
3. David Lipscomb wrote, "These are, perhaps, the last words of him who wrought a greater change in the condition of mankind by his writings than any other man who ever lived. All honor to his blessed memory".
4. In this chapter of last things for Paul, there is a last charge, last reminders, and last farewells.
5. If this were your last chapter of life, could you say with Paul that you had fought a good fight and finished the course having kept the faith?
6. If not, why not repent and change right now?