

**Running the Race of Faith  
2 Timothy 4:9-22 (Week 12) 07/12/2026  
Final Lessons from Paul**

**This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.**

### **Introduction & Review**

- Today we conclude our series **through 1 & 2 Timothy**.
- Throughout both letters the apostle Paul has instructed Timothy in his faith and his ministry.
- And I pray that **we too have been instructed**, in our faith and ministry.
- I pray that as we reflect on what we've learned,
- we'll be **encouraged** by how God has **used his inspired word** to impact our lives.
- Personally, **2 Timothy** has caused me to **examine my faith again and again**.
- Asking such questions as *"do I trust Jesus enough to continue boldly preaching His word, even if it means, as it did for Paul, imprisonment and/or death."*
- These letters have helped me to see just how crucial it is to **keep the faith**,
- to continue **trusting completely in Jesus Christ**, living in obedience to His word.
- **COME WHAT MAY IN THIS LIFE.**
- **For that's what Paul did** and that's what **he desired for** his child in the faith, **Timothy**.
- And so, even though he was in prison facing execution, he wrote this letter.
- His concern throughout was not for himself but **for Timothy and all believers**.
- Even his final testimony, **which we looked at last week**, was meant to encourage Timothy and all believers to follow His example of faith, declaring...

***<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth 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)***

- Paul knows that his departure (his death) is near.
- But he's not fearful because he's kept the faith.
- Therefore, when he dies, Jesus will give him "the crown of righteousness".
- And he wants Timothy and all believers, **all who long for Christ's appearing**,
- to be encouraged to follow his example, to continue preaching the word, come what may
- And that takes us to our passage for today.
- Having given these final words of encouragement...
- Paul **then concludes** with some **personal matters**.

- Again, **Paul knew he would die soon.**
- But for the time he had left, there were certain things he desired,
- certain personal matters he wanted to communicate to Timothy.
- And even in these final personal matters, Paul shows great concern for others and for the gospel.
- And we can learn from his example.
- In fact, as I studied this passage, I discovered 12 final lessons that Paul teaches us.
- Now you may have noticed **that unlike most Sundays,**
- I didn't have someone read our passage in advance.
- The reason for that is because it's a bit longer than normal, (14 verses)
- and it contains a number of **difficult to pronounce names** and places that I didn't want to burden anyone else with.
- So, I'll be reading **2 Timothy 4:9-22** as we walk through each point, the first being...

### 1. Paul's Personal Requests

- **2 Timothy 4:9-22** begins and (nearly) ends with similar requests...

#### *Do your best to come to me soon*

- And then in **verse 21** Paul adds a little more specificity to this request...

#### *<sup>21</sup> Do your best to come before winter. (2 Timothy 4:21)*

- Paul was ready to depart, to meet his Lord, because **he'd finished the race of faith.**
- And yet, he expected to live a few more months.
- That would give Timothy time to travel to him for **a final visit.**
- **But he must come soon** or quickly.
- And why is Paul in a hurry for **Timothy's arrival.**
- Well, certainly he wants to see his beloved child in the faith **one final time before he dies.**
- But beyond that **there are ministry needs** that Timothy can meet.
- If you study Paul's ministry strategy,
- You'll find that he believed **ministry** should be done with others, **in teams.**
- He always had companions (Like Barnabas and Silas and Timothy) who supported him in his missionary journeys.
- However, at this point, as he awaits execution in a Roman prison cell, his companions were few.
- So, Paul wants Timothy to come quickly... **For (or Because)**

*<sup>10</sup> ...Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Cres-Sens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia (where Dalmatians come from). <sup>11</sup> Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. <sup>12</sup> Tychicus (Tich-i-cus) I have sent to Ephesus. (2 Timothy 4:10-12)*

- We can find **most of these names** in the book of **Acts** or **Paul's** other letters.
- In Paul's letter to **Philemon**, he includes **Demas** in his **list of fellow workers**....

***<sup>24</sup> ...Mark, Aristarchus (Ar-i-star-cus), Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. (Philemon 1:24)***

- But **Demas** apparently got tired of working with Paul. So, he took off to **Thessalonica**.
- We don't know why he went to Thessalonica.
- But we do know that **Demas was**...

***in love with this present world***

- This is a telling statement.
- Demas clearly loved the things of this world, **what the world could offer him**,
- more than Paul and his ministry,
- Earlier, in **2 Timothy**, Paul had written that **false teachers** are...

***<sup>2</sup> ...lovers of self, lovers of money... <sup>4</sup> ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (2 Timothy 3:2, 4)***

- And this would apply to **Demas who loved this world**.
- Also, as we read earlier in Paul Final Testimony...

***<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness... to all who have loved [Jesus'] appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8)***

- Christians love Jesus, they long for his appearing, but again, **Demas loved this world**.
- And so he deserted not only Paul, but he deserted his ministry, his service to the gospel.
- Demas is an example of what Jesus said in Matthew 24...

***<sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (Matthew 6:24)***

- Demas loved this world, **he was devoted to this world**, not to God.
- And here we find **our first lesson**.

***LESSON 1: Who (or what) we love determines who (or what) we serve.***

- What about you?
- Do you love money, pleasure, self, or do you love God.
- And the answer can be found by looking at **who you are serving**,
- what you are living for, where you spend your time and energy.
- What brings you joy and satisfaction.
- Demas deserted Paul because **Paul loved and served the Lord**.
- Paul was **fully satisfied with** and **rejoiced in the Lord**.

- But Demas **wasn't satisfied with what the Lord offered,**
- and so, he sought **his joy and satisfaction in the things of this world.**
- And the question we should ask ourselves is, where do I seek my joy and satisfaction?
- In the Lord or in the World? **So that's enough of Demas.**
- **2 Timothy 4:10** also mentions the travels of..

***Cres-Sens WHO has gone to Galatia, AND Titus to Dalmatia. (2 Timothy 4:10)***

- We know nothing of **Cres-Sens** except that he went to **Galatia,**
- **Titus** is more familiar, he traveled to **Dalmatia,**
- a city in the Roman province of **Illyricum. (ill-lir-i-cum)**
- And since **Acts 16 and 18** records that Paul had ministered in both **Galatia** and **Illyricum**
- we can surmise that he sent both men to **strengthen the churches there.**
- Paul's **concern for the churches** outweighed **his desire for companionship.**
- And so, as Paul writes this letter, **he says...**

***Luke alone is with me***

- Luke, **the author of the Gospel and the Book of Acts,** was also a doctor and therefore was certainly ministering to Paul's physical needs, caring for him as he suffered in prison.
- But with only Luke by his side, Paul, **requests that Timothy not only come quickly but...**

***Get Mark and bring him with you...***

- Notice, Paul wanted Mark to come because **"he is very useful to me for ministry"**
- This again shows that even in his final days in prison,
- Paul continued to be concerned about **ministry to others.**
- He wanted both Timothy and Mark to join him that he might encourage them
- and guide them in their ministries following his death.
- Now, you may remember that **Mark was with Paul on his first missionary journey,**
- But he **quit the team** before they returned to Jerusalem.
- The Bible doesn't tell us **why Mark "deserted" Paul.**
- But as a result, **Paul refused to take him again on the next missionary journey.**
- And this caused a **temporary rift with Barnabas.**
- But now it seems that **a reconciliation has taken place.**
- This implies that whatever the reason for Mark's departure from Paul, it wasn't, like Demas,
- because he loved this present world.
- And there is a lesson here for us as well, we must...

***LESSON 2: Seek reconciliation with fellow believers.***

- In life and ministry there will be disagreements, there may even be times of conflict.
- But ultimately, in the body of Christ, we must give grace and forgiveness.
- That we might continue in ministry together. **Paul then then writes...**

### ***Tychicus (Tich-i-cus) I have sent to Ephesus***

- Since Timothy was in Ephesus when he received this letter,
- This let him know that **Tychicus** would soon replace him.
- Paul had personal reasons to call Timothy to his side,
- but by sending **Tychicus**, he ensured that the church in **Ephesus** would continue to have capable leadership.
- Now as Timothy traveled from **Ephesus to Troas to Rome**,
- Paul asked him to **bring Mark**, but he also requested...

### ***When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments***

- **Cloaks** were simple, heavy garments, that would provide warmth as winter approached.
- The “books” **would be papyrus scrolls**,
- while “**parchments**” were in Paul’s day a new sort of book, made of sheets and bound together.
- **This was a prototype of modern books.**
- **And** these books and parchments were probably Paul’s notebooks or copies of Scripture.
- And what this shows is that even though Paul is expecting to die soon,
- He’s still concerned about getting the things he needed to continue **working for the sake of the gospel**.
- As Paul waits for death in prison,
- He doesn’t give up, he doesn’t sit back and relax, **he doesn’t retire from ministry**.
- Which would have been understandable.
- But instead, he continues doing **whatever he can to spread** the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- He has deployed his men, he’s calling others to himself, and he wants his Bible study notes.
- **all in an effort to see the gospel continue to go forth.**
- And this should be a lesson for us as well...

### **LESSON 3: There is no retirement from ministry.**

- No matter what our circumstances, **we should never give up**,
- As long as we have breath, we must not **retire from gospel ministry**.
- That’s not to say that as we age, things will not change, and we might need to retire from a job,
- Even if we are pastors or missionaries.
- But we must **continue to make every effort**, with whatever gifts and resources God provides,
- to see the **gospel of Jesus Christ go forth into this world**.

- Now there's one more lesson from this section that I want to make clear, that is...

#### LESSON 4: Ministry is a team effort.

- Clearly, the Apostle Paul, the greatest Christian & Missionary in Church History, needed help.
- He needed fellow workers; he needed **companionship**; he needed the body of Christ.
- And if that was true for him it's certainly true for each and every one of us.
- As we seek to live the Christian life, **as especially as we seek to do ministry**.
- Understand this, God made us to work together **in community**...
- And this is **especially true** when facing difficulty, **for as Solomon wrote**...

***<sup>12</sup> ...a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)***

- Put simply we are better together; **ministry is a team effort**.
- Paul knew this and that's why, **even as he faced death**, his personal request centered on his fellow workers in the gospel.
- He then turns to a former fellow worker, and we find that...

#### 2. Paul was Betrayed by Men

- We've already seen that because he loved the world, **Demas** deserted Paul.
- But **Alexander** took it to the next level... **Verse 14**...

***<sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>15</sup> Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. (2 Timothy 4:14-15)***

- There are several **Alexanders** in the New Testament.
- But this **Alexander** is certainly the same one Paul mentioned in **1 Timothy**...

***<sup>19</sup> ...some have made shipwreck of their faith, <sup>20</sup> among whom are Hymenaeus (HI-MEN-AY-US) and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (1 Timothy 1:19-20)***

- In **1 Timothy**, it seems that Paul has at least some hope for Alexander,
- **that he will learn not to blaspheme**.
- But that hope is not present in **2 Timothy**.
- **We see this in the phrase**...

#### ***did me great harm***

- Which could be literally translated,
- **Alexander exhibited hostility with many evil deeds**.
- Now we're not told what **evil deeds Alexander did to Paul**.
- He may have been the one **who ratted him out to Roman and got him arrested**.

- But he was certainly **an apostate, someone who had renounced his former faith,**
- We know this because Paul warns Timothy...

***<sup>15</sup> Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. (2 Timothy 4:15)***

- This is certainly Alexander's greatest evil.
- He had once professed **faith in Jesus Christ.**
- He had even **proclaimed the gospel,** but then **he had shipwrecked his faith.**
- Paul then handed him over to Satan in hopes that he might learn something.
- But apparently, **he learned nothing good.**
- So **now Alexander** has made it his mission in life to oppose the message he formerly endorsed.
- The author of Hebrews gives **the strongest condemnation possible to people like this...**

***<sup>4</sup> For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance... (Hebrews 6:4-6)***

- There is a lot in these verses, and we covered them in our study of Hebrews.
- How far a person can go before **it is impossible to restore them to repentance.**
- **I will leave that to God.**
- But **if there is anyone who could not be restored to faith,**
- it was Alexander, and people like him, **who tasted the gift and goodness of God,**
- seemingly embracing faith and **then rejected and opposed this same gift.**
- Rejecting the goodness of God and His word.
- And so, **Paul declares...**

***the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.***

- As Hebrews tells us and Paul confirms, the apostate, the traitor to the faith,
- the one who endorsed and then opposes the gospel, **gets special negative attention.**
- Why? Because they deny truth that they once knew and seek to annihilate **a cause that they once embraced.**
- And there are several lessons here for us...
- **The first is more of a warning...**

**LESSON 5: The Lord will judge the apostate.**

- The one who opposes the gospel they once endorsed will be repay-ed according to their deeds.
- **Then Second, as Paul told Timothy...**

**LESSON 6: Beware of those who oppose the gospel.**

- **Christians cannot simply just wait for the Lord's judgment**
- Timothy (and we) must "beware" or "guard against" those who oppose the gospel.
- This has been a theme throughout **1 & 2 Timothy**.
- We must defend against those who **seek to attack the gospel of Jesus Christ**.
- Now there are always people from outside the church who attack Christianity and the Bible.
- And they must be dealt with; their accusations must be answered.
- But don't be surprised by people like **Alexander, former professing Christians who turn against the church, and the gospel of Jesus Christ**.
- **There are plenty in our day, one example is Bart Ehrman: (Air-Men)**
- **Ehrman** is a **New Testament scholar** and former evangelical Christians,
- But he rejected the faith and is now an atheist.
- He frequently writes and speaks about the **human fallibility** of the Bible
- and opposes Christian claims of divine inspiration.
- Like Alexander, **Ehrman** sharply oppose the gospel, the message of Christianity.
- Just as Alexander opposed Paul's words,
- **today's opponents oppose the word, sound theology, the faith.**
- **Therefore, we must be ready to defend the faith.**
- Okay, so Demas deserted Paul and Alexander opposed him. **Beyond that Paul writes,**

***16 At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! (2 Timothy 4:16)***

- This "**first defense**" was probably what we would call a **preliminary hearing**.
- And apparently, going into the hearing, **the Romans presumed Paul guilty...**
- And therefore, **fear of association with a condemned man kept his friends and allies away**.
- They didn't stand by him but instead deserted him.
- And even though this was wrong, **showing a lack of faith on their part**. Paul urges Timothy...

***May it not be charged against them!***

- Paul follows the example of Jesus, who knew that when he was arrested,
- most of his disciples would desert him,
- but he didn't hold it against them, **even restoring Peter after his three denials**.
- **And again, similar to the lesson we learned from Paul's acceptance of Mark.**

## **LESSON 7: When wronged, extend grace and forgiveness.**

- There may be times when, out of fear and a momentary lapse in faith,
- fellow believers may wrong us, refuse to stand by us,
- **They may even desert us in our time of need.**
- But we must demonstrate the grace, mercy and forgiveness of **Jesus and Paul**.
- We must not hold it against them.

- Alexander rebelled willfully, **but most do not**.
- So, when wronged by fellow believers, we can pray with Paul and Jesus,

### **May it not be charged against them!**

- OKAY, we've seen how **men like Alexander betrayed Paul**,
- and how others out of **fear deserted Paul**.
- But Paul is **not fixated on the failures of men**, for he goes on to report...

### **3. Paul was Supported by God**

- Verse 17...

***<sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (2 Timothy 4:17)***

- In contrast to the failings of men there comes **the support of God**.
- And Paul lists three ways God supported him...
- First, he

#### **stood by**

- Paul when men did not.
- **The verb *stood by*** reminds us that God's presence does not leave his people.
- And this is especially true for those who are **seeking to fulfill his purposes**.
- Paul was in prison **for preaching the gospel to the Gentiles**.
- For obeying Jesus' command, **the great commission to...**

***<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)***

- And with this commission **came the promise...**

***And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)***

- Paul was blessed, he was supported in his time of need, **by the presence of God**.
- The Lord stood by him, and it was The Lord's presence that

#### **strengthened him**

- The Lord strengthens, empowers his people, his ambassadors, his witnesses.
- Again, to his disciples Jesus said...

***<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)***

- Paul had been **strengthened, not merely to withstand the suffering of prison,**
- **But to continue** proclaiming the gospel,
- Notice the reason Paul gives for the Lord standing by him and **strengthening** him...

***so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. (2 Timothy 4:17)***

- Even in his imprisonment God was using him to **proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles.**
- Those who were **at his first hearing heard the gospel,**
- **the prison guards** heard the gospel
- Anyone Paul **encountered, heard the gospel.**
- And at **his final trial,** He would **proclaim the gospel once more.**
- No matter what the **final verdict was,** strengthened by the presence of the LORD,
- Paul would continue to fulfill his responsibility of proclaiming the gospel.
- So, the Lord stood by and strengthened Paul continue proclaiming the gospel.
- But how was he...

***rescued from the lion's mouth***

- Because even though he survived **the first hearing, he still expected to die shortly.**
- Remember **he being poured out,** the time of his departure has come, he's finished the race.
- So, what does he mean by rescue, **Well the next line explains:**

***<sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom... (2 Timothy 4:18)***

- Paul didn't expect **or even desire** to be rescued from death.
- **Instead,** he has the assurance that the evil deeds planned against him will ultimately fail.
- He has absolute trust in Christ as the one who would overrule evil for His glory,
- and for the good of His servants.
- Don't forget it was Paul who wrote...

***<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)***

- His enemies mean his execution for evil,
- but God will rescue Paul from every evil deed and use even his death for good.
- And this would lead to the ultimate good.
- Paul trusts the Lord to rescue him **into God's eternal heavenly kingdom after his execution.**
- So, in the midst of this great trial, suffering in prison, facing death.
- Paul experiences the strength to continue his mission.
- And he is quite aware that his strength comes from the presence of the LORD.

- And he also experiences the assurance that God will rescue him from evil and deliver him into His eternal Kingdom.
- And so, **in conclusion he burst forth...**

*To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen*

- Now what lessons can we learn **from God's support of Paul.**
- Well, **first,**

**LESSON 8: People will fail us, but God will not.**

- He has promised,

<sup>5</sup> ...*"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5)

- In times of difficulty, we may feel lonely, but we are never alone.
- **Second,**

**LESSON 9: The Lord strengthens his people to proclaim his message.**

- And this is true regardless of our circumstances.
- Whether we are facing a man's judgement and death, **like Paul did,**
- or we're facing a friend, family member, or a guy who needs a car wash.
- If we rely on God's presence to strengthen us,
- we will find the strength, the words needed to proclaim his message.
- Just as the Lord empowered Paul, he will empower us to be his ambassadors.
- **And third,**

**LESSON 10: We need to see our circumstances correctly.**

- This is important if we are going to recognize and seize every opportunity.
- Paul could have complained about **his trial and imprisonment**, his suffering!
- But instead, he saw an **opportunity to fulfill his mission to proclaim the gospel.**
- And we, too, must view our **difficult circumstances** with the eye of faith.
- Knowing that God is at work, **so we must always look for opportunities** to fulfill the mission he has given us.
- Knowing that **difficult circumstances often lead to opportunities.**
- So, Paul has listed his personal request, he has spoken of men's failure and God's support.
- Declaring...

*To him (TO GOD) be the glory forever and ever. Amen*

- And then he turns to....

#### 4. Paul's Final Greetings

- As he closes this letter,
- Paul has a list of people he wishes to greet as well as several who want to greet Timothy.
- It seems that the people mentioned are both coworkers in the gospel and friends in Christ.

***<sup>19</sup> Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus (O-nis-i-four-us). <sup>20</sup> E-ras-tus remained at Corinth, and I left Tro-phi-mus, who was ill, at Miletus. (2 Timothy 4:19-20)***

- “**Prisca (Also called Prisilla) and Aquila**” are among Paul’s oldest friends and co-laborers.
- **Acts 18** tells us that Paul first meets them in Corinth.
- They, like Paul, were tentmakers (they made tents) and so Paul stayed with them.
- And when he set sail **for Ephesus**, they came with him.
- Eventually this couple ended up in Rome.
- We know this because as Paul sends final greeting in that letter, we read...

***<sup>3</sup> Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. (Romans 16:3-4)***

- This couple not only were Paul’s fellow workers,
- but they were his dear friends who risked their necks for his life!
- This could refer to **events in Ephesus**, where Paul was at the center of a riot over the Goddess Artemis.
- But whatever the case, they clearly cared for Paul, they were true friends.
- And as Solomon observes,

***<sup>24</sup> ...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)***

- In the body of Christ, we are all called to have fellowship with one another.
- But, and this is...

#### **LESSON 11: (we should) Develop special friendships with believers.**

- Like Paul did with Prisca and Aquilla.
- Paul then turns to another friend, he greets...

#### ***the household of O-nis-i-phor-us***

- He’s already written about **Onesiphorus** in chapter one...

***<sup>16</sup> May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, <sup>17</sup> but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— (2 Timothy 1:16-17)***

- The fact that in both places Paul mentions **the household of Onesiphorus...**
- **Could mean that** the whole family shared a friendship with Paul,
- or **Onesiphorus** is away or he may have died in service to the Lord.
- We simply do not know.
- Paul then updates Timothy on two men he was familiar with...

***E-ras-tus (who) remained at Corinth,***

- Apparently, Erastus continued Paul's work in Corinth.

***and I left Tro-phi-mus, who was ill, at Miletus***

- According to Acts 20 & 21,
- **Trophimus** came from Ephesus and was prominent enough to accompany Paul as he brought a gift from Gentile churches to the church in Jerusalem.
- And since Timothy was leading the church in Ephesus,
- Paul wanted him to know the status of one of his leaders.
- Paul's then turns again to **Timothy's coming...**

***Do your best to come before winter***

- Paul had already told Timothy to come soon.
- **Now he says, come "Before winter"**, which in this case means **by November**.
- The journey from **Ephesus to Rome** was about **nine hundred miles** by sea and far more by land.
- The boats of that time could not withstand the Mediterranean's winter storms,
- so sailing ceased from **November to March**.
- Paul wants his cloak and books—but, apparently suspecting that he might perish before spring,
- **he wanted Timothy to hurry.**
- So **"before winter"** really means **"before I die,"**
- and yet, he doesn't say that, probably because he doesn't want to cause Timothy greater sorrow.
- Paul then sends greetings from four little-known people:

***<sup>21</sup> ...Eubulus (YOU-BU-LUS) sends greetings to you, as do Pudens (POO-DENS) and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. (2 Timothy 4:21)***

- So even though **Luke alone is with Paul**.
- There were **other Christians in Rome** who he had contact with.
- Perhaps these are some of the **ones who deserted him**,
- **But he doesn't hold it against them.**

- Eu-bu-lus, Pu-dens, Linus, and Claudia are not mentioned anywhere else in the NT.
- Claudia is a woman's name.
- **And Second Century Church leader Irenaeus** said that **Linus** became the first bishop of Rome,
- But here he is simply the third name in a list of four.
- And it is **this entire list of names** that provides **our final lesson**.
- The Christian community **did not serve Paul perfectly**.
- He was alone at his first hearing, but in this concluding passage we find fifteen names of Paul's friends, allies and fellow workers **plus all the brothers** in Rome.
- In the end Paul had people he could turn to, people who loved him and would stand by him.
- And let that be our **final lesson**, in good times and bad, we must...

## **LESSON 12: Love and stand by one another.**

- For we are part of the body of Christ, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.
- And **as we love** and stand by one another, we **are loving and standing by Christ**.
- **And that takes us to Paul's brief closing benediction.** The first part reads,

### ***The Lord be with your spirit.***

- We know this is addressed to Timothy because "your" is singular in the Greek.
- Paul hopes that "the Lord will be with Timothy as he has so evidently been with Paul himself."
- Then **in the second blessing Paul writes...**

### ***Grace be with you***

- The you here is plural, **Paul shifts from the singular to the plural**.
- Until this point in the letter, every time the word "you," was used it was singular.
- But in this final blessing he switches to the plural, **why?**
- **Well, it seems that Paul wants his readers to know that** this letter belongs to all believers,
- to the church of Jesus Christ—**not just one man**.
- Timothy does not stand alone, **but he is a member of the body of Christ**.
- And to that body Paul says **Grace be with you!**
- And it is with these final words of grace, **Paul concludes his final letter**.
- How fitting that this great Apostle and author of much of the NT concludes with grace on his lips...
- He, **the self-proclaimed chief of sinners**, had receive grace upon grace from Jesus Christ.
- And from that moment forward his life was dedicated to proclaiming to all people...
- the grace of God, found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- May we who were once sinners like Paul,
- but have receive the great grace of God, **do the same**.
- May we also dedicate our lives **to declaring the grace of God to all people**.
- Would you pray with me as Brian comes to lead us in Communion.