

A Father's Farewell

2nd Timothy

Never Alone

Key idea:

Paul was abandoned by many in his time of need, but he was never alone for the Lord was always with Him, turning his suffering into opportunities for the Gospel, and delivering him even through death itself.

Key text:

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ¹⁹ Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers. ²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Key points:

1. As he neared the end of his life, Paul had been abandoned by many, but he was not left alone as he would spend his final days with a few of his closest companions.
2. Paul had been betrayed and arrested, and at his first trial he had no one to speak in his defense, yet he used the trial as an opportunity to testify in behalf of Jesus and His Gospel.
3. Even though it appeared Paul was abandoned, the Lord stood with him always and would deliver him even through death itself to bring him into the heavenly kingdom.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How does Paul communicate his feeling of loneliness and abandonment? Does it surprise me to think of the great apostle struggling with these emotions?
3. How comforting do I think it was for Paul to have Timothy, Luke, and Mark with him at the end of his life? How was this evidence of God's care for Paul?
4. Why does Paul say that the Lord will repay Alexander for what he did to Paul (probably betraying and testifying against him)? Is the vengeful on the part of Paul? Why or why not? What can I learn from Paul's words regarding Alexander?
5. Why does Paul pray that the fact that many abandoned him at his first trial would not be held to their account? What can I learn from this?
6. Why is Paul confident that the Lord Jesus would deliver him from every evil and bring him safely home into the heavenly kingdom? How can this fact comfort me when I feel abandoned?
7. Read Psalm 22. What is the message of the Psalm? How does it express very similar ideas to 2 Timothy 4:9-22?
8. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

Our Next Series: Poems, Prayers, and Promises (Psalms)

Preview of Next Week: Psalm 88