

## 2 Timothy 4:1-22 **Final Charge – Closing Instructions**

### Final Charge to Timothy

<sup>1</sup> I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

<sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

<sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

### Paul faces death

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

### Paul's present status and personal need

<sup>9</sup> Be diligent to come to me quickly; <sup>10</sup> for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

<sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. <sup>12</sup> And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

<sup>13</sup> Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come--and the books, especially the parchments.

<sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

<sup>15</sup> You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

<sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

### Faithfulness of the Lord

<sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

<sup>18</sup> And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

### Greetings

<sup>19</sup> Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

<sup>20</sup> Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

<sup>21</sup> Do your utmost to come before winter.

Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Final Charge to Timothy

- ✚ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: [\[2 Timothy 4:1\]](#)
  - ✧ Paul calls God and the Lord Jesus Christ as witnesses of his charge to Timothy.
  - ✧ When Jesus comes to set up His Kingdom, He will judge the living and the dead on His arrival.
- ✚ The charge to Timothy is:
  - ✧ Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. [\[2 Timothy 4:2\]](#)
- ✚ End Time Apostasy [\[2 Timothy 4:3-4\]](#)
  - ✧ In the Last Days, people will not tolerate sound doctrine according to Scripture.
  - ✧ They will seek out teachers according to their own desires who teach what they want to hear.
  - ✧ They will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (doctrines of men).
- ✚ Command for Timothy, sound advice to us all. "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." [\[2 Timothy 4:5\]](#)
  - ✧ Whatever others desire and do, the Christian leader is responsible for himself to God, to diligently guard his behavior and doctrine, to patiently endure whatever afflictions come his way, to continue faithfully in the work of his calling, and to complete his ministry to the very end.

### Paul faces death [\[2 Timothy 4:6-8\]](#)

- ✚ Knowing he has been sentenced to death, Paul makes his final declaration of faith.
  - ✧ Paul declared the end of the race and end of the fight crowned by the most important factor of all, "**I have kept the faith.**"
  - ✧ We experience many things in serving the Lord, adversity on every hand and tests of our commitment as Job was tested, yet the Lord expects us to endure it all to the very end, holding on to our faith. [\[Matthew 10:16-22, 24:3-14, Mark 13:9-13, James 5:7-11\]](#)
  - ✧ If we continue faithful to the end, we have the assurance that we will receive the reward of the Crown of Righteousness.
  - ✧ We do not lay claim to the crown for ourselves, but the Lord, the righteous Judge, will Himself give us our reward on the Day of Judgment.
  - ✧ The reward of recognition of the righteous is not for Paul only, but for all who have eagerly awaited His appearing.

### Paul's present status and personal need [\[2 Timothy 4:9-16\]](#)

- ✚ Apparently though the sentence of death is on Paul, the day of execution is not immediate.
  - ✧ Therefore Paul has time to request help for his immediate situation, but wants Timothy to come quickly.
  - ✧ Being left alone in prison by those from Asia and Macedonia, Paul feels deserted, and expresses his feeling of abandonment. "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia."
  - ✧ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.
  - ✧ This is interesting, since Paul viewed John Mark as unworthy when he left them on the first missionary journey at Pamphylia and returned to Jerusalem. [\[Acts 13:13, 15:37-38\]](#)

- ✧ John whose surname was Mark was the cousin of Barnabas, his mother was Mary, residing in Jerusalem. [[Acts 12:12](#), [Colossians 4:10](#)]
- ✧ Now Paul acknowledged Mark as useful to him for his ministry, and requested Timothy to bring him along.
- ✧ The dungeon gets cold in the winter so Paul requested timothy to bring the cloak he left with Carpus at Troas, and the books and parchments.
- ✧ Paul warned Timothy to beware of Alexander the coppersmith at Ephesus who did him much harm in greatly resisting the message of the Gospel. "May the Lord repay him according to his works."
- ✧ No one stayed with Paul at his first defense, but left him to face judgment alone.
- ✧ Paul did not hold it against them but prayed, "May it not be charged against them." Thus showing his disappointment with them and his feeling of abandonment.

#### Faithfulness of the Lord [[2 Timothy 4:17-18](#)]

- ✧ Though men may and often do fail us, the Lord is always faithful, and Paul declared that "The Lord stood with me and strengthened me, that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear.."
- ✧ Paul was also caused to fight with lions and beasts at Ephesus and Rome, and the Lord delivered him then as well. [[1 Corinthians 15:32](#), [2 Timothy 4:17](#)]
- ✧ Paul has confidence that "the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom."
- ✧ To the Lord be glory forever and ever. Amen!

#### Closing Greetings, instruction, and Blessing [[2 Timothy 4:19-22](#)]

- ✧ Urgency from the cold dungeon calls for special request, "Do your utmost to come before winter."
- ✧ Greeting for those in Ephesus, "Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus."
- ✧ Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.
- ✧ Greetings from those still with Paul in Rome, "Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren."
- ✧ The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.