

# The Household of the Living God

## Perseverance

### “Examples of Faithfulness”

2 Timothy 4:9-22

It's hard to overstate how important it is that there should be faithful friends that we are encouraged by and faithfulness to us as our strength.

#### I. Faithful Friends (9-15; 19-21)

Faithful friends are important:

1. *Timothy (4:9)* - Twice Paul urges Timothy to come to him quickly (vs. 9, 21).
2. *Crescens (4:10)* - “Crescens has gone to Galatia.” A church tradition connects him with the churches in Gaul.
3. *Titus (4:10)* - Paul calls Titus “my true son” (Titus 1:4) and speaks of him as a friend and gospel partner.
4. *Tychicus (4:12)* - Seems to have been a reliable partner. He carried the letters of Colossians and Ephesians to the churches (Eph 6:21–22; Col 4:7–8). He may have carried this letter to Timothy: “I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus” (4:12).
5. *Luke (4:11)* - “Only Luke is with me.” Paul referred to Luke as “the dearly loved physician” (Col 4:14). He joined much of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journeys.
6. *John Mark (4:11b)* – “Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.”
7. *Carpus (4:13)* - “When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, as well as the scrolls, especially the parchments.” The parchments are probably important Christian material. Perhaps copies of Old Testament Scriptures.
8. *Prisca and Aquila (4:19)* – married couple that befriended Paul in Corinth.
9. *Onesiphorus (4:19)* - Paul greets Onesiphorus’s household. Even though it appears that he was in Rome at the moment, Paul still mentions a word of greeting to his household.
10. *Erastus (4:20)* - Paul says, “Erastus has remained at Corinth;
11. *Trophimus (4:20)*. I left Trophimus who was ill at Miletus.” He was a companion of Paul on his third missionary journey.
12. All the brothers (4:21) – Paul included some new friends in Rome as well. *Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers*. They appear to be part of the church in Rome since their names are joined with “all the brothers.”

Faithful friends are even more important when we remember that we will experience the disappointments of faithless people along the way.

1. *Demas (4:10)* - “*has deserted me.*” Demas was previously a “coworker” of Paul (Col 4:14; Phlm 24). Why did he desert Paul? “*Because he loved this present world.*” Instead of loving the coming world of Christ at His appearing (4:8), Demas loved “this present world” (Rom 12:2; 1 John 2:15–17).

2. *Alexander (4:14–15)*. Alexander was an obvious opponent to Paul and the gospel. He “*did great harm to me*” and “*he strongly opposed our words.*”

Paul tells Timothy two things about Alexander.

- First, “*The Lord will repay him according to his works*” (v. 14).
- Second, he warns Timothy, “*Watch out for him yourself*” (v. 15).

## II. The Ever-faithful Lord (16-18; 22)

<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!

This courageous shepherd of the church did not have one single Christian alongside him at his first defense.

<sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me . . .

Paul magnifies Jesus for us here:

- Like Jesus, who went to Jerusalem, Paul had gone to Jerusalem and was arrested.
- Paul is in a sort of Gethsemane trial. He says, “Everyone deserted me” (Mark 14:50).
- Paul says of his opponents, “May it not be counted against them” (Luke 23:34).
- Like Christ Jesus, it seems that Paul uses the language of Psalm 22

<p><b>2 Timothy 4:16–18</b> At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!</p> <p><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.</p> <p>So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.</p> <p>To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 22</b> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me . . . <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.</p> <p><sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.</p> <p><sup>21</sup>Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!</p> <p><sup>28</sup>For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.</p>
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“ . . . so that the proclamation might be fully made through me, and all the Gentiles might hear. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth” (v. 17).

By God’s strength in him he is a living example of the soldier who stands at the post in good and bad circumstances, whether convenient or not.

He says, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.”

Conclusion:

Takeaway truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Christ Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

As a disciple of Christ, I should: \_\_\_\_\_