

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Faith – Depending on God

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Lesson 4: The Finale of Faith II Timothy 4:6 – 18

If you wander through an old graveyard, you'll notice that many tombstones have an epitaph, a saying that sums up the life of the deceased person. Most epitaphs are quite complimentary to the dead. Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters is a collection of epitaphs with a twist. On each tombstone the deceased person finally tells the truth, beautiful or ugly, about his or her own life.

Group Discussion. If you could write your own epitaph, what would it say about your faith?

- ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***

New King James Version (NKJV)

- ***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

English Standard Version (ESV)

- ***The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.***

The Message (MSG)

- ***Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.***

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

- ***Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.***

New International Version (NIV)

Paul's second letter to Timothy is probably the last letter he wrote. In that sense it is something like an extended epitaph for Paul. The apostle's last written words give us deep insight into his life of faith.

Read II Timothy 4:6 – 18.

1. Throughout this passage, what clues do you get that these are Paul's last words to Timothy? What does Paul's "life summary" (vv. 6-7, 16-17) tell us about what he considered essential?

Vs. 6: For I am already being poured out as a drink offering...the time of my departure is at hand...

Vs. 7: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith

Vs. 8: Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness

Vs. 9: Be diligent to come to me quickly

Vs. 11 – 12: Get...Bring...


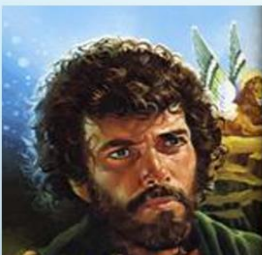


Vs 18: *And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom...*

Scriptures	Remarks
<p><i>6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.</i></p> <p><i>7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He considered giving his all for the ministry of the Gospel to be the most essential. • Being ready to meet Lord – It could happen at any time. • Fight, Run and Keep the faith – despite the Obstacles to the very end.
<p><i>16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.</i></p> <p><i>17 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. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stand for the Gospel – even if it means standing alone. • To forgive our enemies and/or those who have wronged us. • To Trust in the Lord no matter the circumstances. • Paul's assignment – the preaching of the Gospel is the highest priority.

2. From looking back on his life, Paul turned to looking forward. What was he confident about (vv. 8, 18)?

Scriptures	Remarks
<p><i>8 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.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was confident of His eternal reward from Jesus Himself. • He was confident of seeing and being with the saints (past, present & future). • He was confident the he would be in the presence of the Lord.
<p>18 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!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite Satan's worst attacks Paul was confident that Lord would deliver him. • He was confident of the promise of Jesus to save him and receive eternal life. • He was confident of the Lord's everlasting Power, Will and Word and that he will join in with extravagant and eternal praise.

3. Notice who and what Paul asked Timothy to bring to him in prison (vv. 11, 13). How do his requests show his hope for a continuing ministry?

Human Resources	Scriptural Resources	Physical Resources
  <p>Tychicus — A faithful servant that Paul could entrust with his ministry. John Mark — a man Paul considered useful (even though they had a previous disagreement (Acts 15:36 – 41)</p>	 <p>Books & Parchments: Paul requested these resources for his edification and the edification of others.</p>	 <p>Paul — anticipating being around for the colder weather requested a cloak (He was not one to give up)</p>
<p><i>“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel ... For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” (Rom 1:15 – 16)</i></p>		

4. What emotions come through in Paul's account of his various relationships—good and bad (vv. 9-16)?

The Good People in Paul's Life	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crescens —probably one of the seventy disciples of Christ. He was one of Paul's assistants (II Timothy 4:10), probably a Christian of Rome. • Titus — A Gentile convert likely led to Christ by Paul. Titus accompanied Paul to Crete, and was left there to assist the Church. • Luke — A useful companion and faithful friend of Paul — accompanying Paul on his missionary journeys and writing an account of the Jesus' life and the early church. • Mark —A leading Christian at Jerusalem Mark failed Paul and Barnabas for fear of what lay ahead in dangerous missions' trip but recovered his place in Paul's esteem. • Tychicus —fortunate or fortuitous. A Christian in Asia Minor, who traveled with Paul during his missionary journeys and was sent to the early church on Paul's behalf • Carpus — A resident of Troas with whom Paul stayed, and with whom he left the cloak he urged Timothy to bring him 	<p>Paul Was Probably Having Conflicting Emotions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy - The People he had be blessed to have influenced for the sake of Gospel are still carrying out the Work and Ministry • Grateful - Paul had the chance to reconcile with John Mark — that they were able to move past it and work together in ministry. • Lonely — Most of His friends are gone — only Luke

5. How had other people sometimes failed Paul (vv. 10, 14-16)?

Demas (vs. 10)

- People who started well in faith and commitment but fell away.
- Loving the pleasure, leisure and treasure of the world rather than Christ and His Gospel.
- Going in their own direction — rather than the direction of Christ/the Church.

Alexander (vv. 14 – 16)

- False Convert – Not really having saving faith.
- Although receiving good from the ministry – seeking to do harm to the church.
- Being in complete opposition to the Church and to the Gospel.

6. How had the Lord helped Paul when people failed him (v. 17)? How has the Lord helped you when people have failed you?

Paul, who said “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Phil 4:13), experienced disappointment with people.

- **The Lord stood By Him** – In the Word, In the Spirit.
- **The Lord Strengthened Him** – Through His Presence and His Promise. Also, through Prayers of the Saints.

7. For what purpose was Paul’s life preserved (vv. 17-18)? What was Paul’s ultimate hope?

- From the very beginning, Paul was marked out to carry the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15).
- He hoped that everyone who needed to be saved would hear the Gospel and receive Jesus as Savior.
- Paul was assured that no matter what he went through – he would be delivered until the Lord decided that his work was completed.
- Once Paul’s work was done – his sure and steadfast hope was to enter into God’s eternal heavenly Kingdom.

8. Based on everything you have learned and discussed in this study, how would you define faith? (If your answer is only to repeat Hebrews 11:1, rephrase it in your own words!)

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

(Hebrews 11:1 NLT)

Thank God for new insights into faith. Thank him also for remaining faithful to you even when your faith falters. Offer praise that Jesus is the one “on whom our faith depends from beginning to end”

Keys for Living



Real faith in God is seen most vividly, not during easy times but when the times are hard, stressful and even full of sorrow and grief.



Although people around us may fail us and we may even fail ourselves, God can be trusted to never, ever fail us.



A life lived in faithful obedience to the Word and the Will of God will be rewarded on earth but more importantl,in eternity.