

Passing the Baton, a Study of 2 Timothy – Lesson 21

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. - 2 Timothy 4:9-15

Day 1 Verse 9

Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. —2 Timothy 4:9-10

1. Using the Literal Word App, define “effort”. How do other verses translate the word?

a. What does this tell us about Paul’s plea?

2. Who was Demas? See also Philemon 1:24 and Colossians 4:14.

3. What does Paul say happened to Demas?

a. What is Paul referring to by “this present age”?

4. Read Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23. Where might Demas fit into this parable?

5. What does the word “deserted” mean?

a. What does Matthew 27:46 and Hebrews 13:5 tell us about being deserted (or abandoned)?

Heart-Check

Have you ever been deserted or abandoned?

How can Paul's heart for those who have deserted him help encourage you?

How does your relationship with Christ and the gospel help you in a situation of desertion?

4. The only mention in Scripture of Crescens is here in 2 Timothy. Does that encourage you to know that there were, and are, many faithful unnamed believers that were used of God to further the gospel?

5. Who is Titus? See also Galatians 2:3, Titus 1:4-5, and 2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17.

6. Where are Thessalonica, Galatia, Dalmatia, and Ephesus today? What does this tell you about the spread of the gospel in the first century?

Heart-Check

Many of us will (Lord willing) be the faithful unknown like Crescens. How is God using you to further His Kingdom and gospel even though you aren't known by many?

Are you okay with being the faithful unknown? Who does know you and the good work you accomplish? How can this encourage to keep going?

What areas can you praise Him for using you?

What areas do you need to be more faithful in?

Day 3 Verses 11-12

Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. —2 Timothy 4:11-12

1. Who is Luke? See also Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24.
 - a. Which books of the Bible did he write?

2. Who is Mark? See also Acts 12:12, 25, and Colossians 4:10.

3. What happened between Paul and Mark in Acts 15:36-41?

a. Paul's attitude towards Mark had clearly changed. Why do you think this is?

4. Which book of the Bible did Mark write?

5. What lessons can we learn from the example of Mark?

Heart-Check

Have you ever had a relationship like Paul and Mark? How can they encourage you when it comes to broken relationships in the body?

Is there any relationship you need to make right?

Mark may have struggled with a lack of maturity and fear in leaving Paul previously. Their relationship is a beautiful picture of reconciliation and courage. How can this help you be patiently hopeful with younger people in the faith?

Day 4 Verses 12-13

But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. –2 Timothy 4:12-13

1. Who was Tychicus? See also Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21-22 and Colossians 4:7-8.
2. Why would Paul have needed a cloak?
3. Why would he want books and parchments in prison?

4. What do you think the parchments contain?

5. Paul was not looking for physical comfort. What can we learn from his request as he faces death?

Heart-Check

What character qualities from Paul's ministry partners you would like to emulate in your own life?

How have they encouraged and challenged you?

d. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

3. What is the contrast between 4:8 and 4:14?

4. What kind of harm did Alexander do to Paul?

5. Does Paul tell him to run to the danger?

a. Should we always run towards those who harm us? Why or why not?

6. What does Alexander oppose? Is it personal?

- a. If our enemies vigorously oppose the teaching of the Word, what kind of level of opposition should we have to their lies?

Heart-Check

Are you trusting the Lord with those who oppose you and do you harm, or do you often seek your own revenge (this could manifest in unforgiveness, bitterness, unkindness, keeping a record of wrongs against you, rejoicing in the fall of your enemies, a lack of prayer for them, or making them atone for their sin against you)?

Do you often attempt to defend yourself? If you are standing with a clear conscience upon the Word when it comes to your conduct and speech, how would it be helpful for you to let the Lord defend you when you are attacked?

Dig Deeper

1. For further research on the dangers of deconversion or deconstruction, Google and listen to "Evangelical Deconstruction" by the Just Thinking Podcast, Darrell Harrison and Virgil Walker Episode 117.