



“Lessons From An Inspired Benediction” (II Timothy 4:9-22)

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Intro: We come now to Paul’s closing words. We call it a benediction. It can be defined as a short invocation for divine help, blessing, and guidance. And we will see that all these are found in this benediction.

I. THE TEXT

- Paul is an aged saint here, and he knows that his time is short. As he said in 4:6, the time had come for his departure. He was in the Mamertine Prison, built 100 years before Paul found himself there. It was reserved for political enemies of Rome. Paul would soon be taken from his dungeon, led to the outside of what is called the Ostian Gate at a place called “The Three Fountains.” He would there be beheaded (As a Roman citizen it was illegal for him to be crucified). Nero was ruling at the time, and he was of course a brutal enemy of Christianity, to the point of lighting his palace garden with the burning bodies of believers. Knowing his time was short, Paul asked for Timothy to come to him quickly. In our day of fast travel, we cannot appreciate what “quickly” would mean in this day. It would take Timothy 4-6 months to make the journey from Ephesus to Rome. Paul must have been counting on the slow, grinding pace of Roman justice to allow Timothy to beat the apostle’s appointment with death.
- Seventeen names (19 people including Paul and Timothy). All we know of Crescens is that he was part of Paul’s ministry team...Carpus is the brother in Troas that Paul had left his cloak with. Winter is coming to Rome, and Paul would really like to have his cloak! Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia are noteworthy among “all the brothers,” but we are not told why.
- Titus is mentioned 14 times in the N.T.
 - II Cor.8: 23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ.
 - Titus 1: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

- Luke the doctor
 - Colossians 4: 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. Paul had more than one reason to refer to Luke as “the beloved physician;” nobody ever needed a doctor traveling with them more than Paul! Luke was a tough friend for tough times. He was with Paul from his first imprisonment to now his last. Refer to Acts 27.

- Tychicus
 - Acts 20:4 (from Asia)
 - Col.4: 7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

- Priscilla and Aquila
 - Acts 18:1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.
 - Rom.16: 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.
 - I Cor.16: 19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

- Onesiphorus
 - See II Timothy 1:16-18.

- Erastus
 - Acts 19: 22 He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.
 - Rom.16: 23 Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

- Trophimus
 - Acts 20:4 Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia
 - Acts 21:29-31 Jews (from Asia) accused Paul of taking Trophimus into the Temple area.

II. LESSONS

A. God's Amazing Records Of Humanity

- See Rev.20:11-14, noting verses 12 and 13b; Luke 8:17; Heb.4:13; 9:27.
- Once someone receives Christ, the sins that would have eternally damned them are blotted out. TO HIM BE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER! However, God is still keeping a record of a Christian's life. Why? See II Cor.5:10 --- I Cor.3:10-15; Matt.10:42; Malachi 3:16.

B. Noteworthy Records In This Benediction

1. Paul, a faithful, mature saint

- a. His attitude toward his enemies (Rom.12:19-21)
- b. His attitude toward those who had deserted him
- c. His attitude toward the Lord (Ps.27:10; Deut. 31:6/Heb.13:5b)
- d. Certainly all of us would love to have Paul's record
 - Peter would love to go back and get a new record (See John 18:10-11; my devotions Saturday am); David would love to go back, as would Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc. etc.

2. Two deserters

a. Demas

- Philemon 23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. 24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.
- Colossians 4: 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.
- Was Demas saved?
- Read from Hughes, p.259.

- See I John 2:15-17.
- Parable of seed and sower
- The most important record you can have with God is that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life (Luke 10:20; Rev.13:8; 20:15; 21:27).
- Salvation invitation

b. John Mark

- When Peter was in prison, the church was praying at John Mark's house (Acts 12:12).
- John Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 13).
- Paul refused to take Mark on the second missionary journey (Acts 15). John Mark was later restored in his relationship with Paul. This restoration was confirmation that he was the real deal.
- See Heb.10:32-39.

CONCLUSION

- I love the fact that the Lord is a restorer. Oh, He will one day destroy his enemies, those who have rejected His grace and mercy. But for those who have repented and sincerely committed their lives to Him, even though they fail, if they will humbly approach His throne of grace, He will shower them with mercy.
- "Peter, I have prayed for you. After you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." That's exactly what Peter did. And that's what John Mark did. He strengthened and encouraged Paul, and of course he encourages all of us through the gospel account he penned.
- Psalm 51:12a (context)