

The Pastoral Epistles

II Timothy 4:9-22 “⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹² Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ 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. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

In his closing remarks, Paul mentions people, both good and bad, he gives Timothy instructions, and he comments on his own deliverance. All three make for good study. Let's consider them in that order.

PEOPLE:

Demas – good or bad? Why?

Crescens – Good or bad? We don't know. It is assumed that he is sent at Paul's bidding, and in a ministerial effort. Traditionally he is believed to have traveled to the region of Gaul, not the Galatia we typically identify in Asia minor. He is believed by the early church fathers to have started several churches in modern day France, and northern Italy.

Titus – good or bad? Good. This is the same Titus to whom Paul wrote the next letter in the Bible. At that time he was in Crete, serving a church there as their pastor, but now is moving to Dalmatia. This is in the area of modern day Croatia and Bosnia/Herzegovina.

Luke – good or bad? Good. He is the author of the majority of the New Testament. Paul wrote 23%, John 20%, but Luke 27%. Also, he is “with” Paul. Luke was a faithful companion to Paul.

Mark – good or bad? Good. John Mark was with Paul on his first missionary journey, but left prematurely. He was the subject of Paul and Barnabas' sharp disagreement before the second missions trip. However, Paul recognized him later as a “co-laborer”, and here again sees him as a great asset to his own ministry. He is also credited with writing the second gospel in our Bibles. (Though many believe it was the first to be drafted chronologically.)

Tychicus – good or bad? Good. Many believe he is being sent to relieve Timothy for a season so he can come to Paul (vs. 9).

Alexander – good or bad? Why?

INSTRUCTIONS:

“Do your best to come to me soon.”

“Get Mark and bring him with you...”

“Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus... also the books, and above all the parchments.”

“Beware of him [Alexander] yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.”

HIS OWN DELIVERANCE:

At his first trial Paul was deserted and left to stand alone, but Paul desires forgiveness of their disloyalty. But God was there and saw him through to keep the ministry progressing.

He was “rescued from the lion’s mouth.” Paul uses an obvious metaphor for the court room of the Roman emperor. Some have suggested that Paul had perhaps been thrown into the colosseum with the lions as punishment for being Christian during the reign of Nero, but that seems highly unlikely because of Paul’s Roman citizenship. Normally only slaves were cast to the lions in the games.

Paul finally celebrates the coming salvation when he will be promoted into glory.