

Letters to Lead By

2 TIMOTHY 4:9–22

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Friendship and fellowship is an integral part of the Christian life. The author of Hebrews exhorts believers, *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching* (Hebrews 10:24–25). We cannot grow, minister, or develop spiritually in a vacuum—we need other believers! Perhaps the effectiveness of Paul’s ministry throughout the world was due in part to his many close friendships with like-minded believers. Paul often listed or mentioned those he was praying for, thankful for, or working alongside. In his epistles to the Romans, Corinthians, and Philippians, Paul stressed the importance of all the members of the body of Christ. Like Paul, we need to appreciate, invest in, work with, and be in fellowship with other believers.

As Paul closed his final epistle to Timothy, he mentioned those who were closest to him in ministry. Paul was so intimately acquainted with these believers that he knew where they were, as well as their spiritual condition. Though lingering in prison and awaiting a violent execution, Paul’s mind and heart were still thinking about his friends.

In this busy world we live in, it is easy to retreat, lose intimacy, and become isolated and lonely. This is not the way God intended His people to live! Proverbs 18:24 says, *A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* This means that in order to be more effective in our Christian witness, we will need to invest in, appreciate, love on, and gather with other believers.

Ask God to give you a greater appreciation and love for the members of your church.

SECOND DAY: Read 2 Timothy 4:9–15

1. Paul, having charged Timothy to preach the Word, closed his final letter with a series of personal greetings and remarks. What did he then urge Timothy to do?
2 Timothy 4:9

a. Link this with 2 Timothy 1:4. Share your insights.

2. In 2 Timothy 4:10–15, Paul informed Timothy concerning many of their mutual acquaintances. Use the following chart to observe these people.

NAME	SCRIPTURES OR NOTATIONS	CONDITIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES	OBSERVATIONS
<i>Demas</i> (verse 10a)	Colossians 4:14 Philemon 23–24	(Matthew 16:23b, 1 John 2:15)	
<i>Crescens</i> (verse 10b)	His name means <i>growing</i> .		
<i>Titus</i> (verse 10c)	2 Corinthians 7:6–7 Titus 1:4		

NAME	SCRIPTURES OR NOTATIONS	CONDITION OR CIRCUMSTANCES	OBSERVATIONS
<p><i>Luke</i> (verse 11a) Author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts</p>	<p>Luke 1:1–4</p> <p>Acts 1:1</p> <p>Colossians 4:14</p>		
<p><i>Mark</i> (verse 11b) Author of the Gospel of Mark</p>	<p>Acts 12:25</p> <p>Acts 15:36–40</p>		
<p><i>Tychicus</i> (verse 12)</p>	<p>Ephesians 6:21</p> <p>Colossians 4:7</p>		
<p><i>Carpus</i> (verse 13)</p>	<p>A Roman name, which means <i>fruit</i>.</p>		
<p><i>Alexander</i> (verses 14–15)</p>	<p>1 Timothy 1:20</p>		



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Alexander is identified as a coppersmith and was therefore part of a guild or union. He resided in Troas where Timothy was instructed to collect Paul's belongings. Therefore, Timothy needed to exercise caution.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mark's mother is mentioned in Acts 12:12–16. It appears that her house was one of the meeting places of the early church.

3. What items did Paul ask Timothy to bring to him?
2 Timothy 4:13

a. Why do you think Paul asked specifically for these items?

(1) If you were lingering in a cold prison awaiting certain execution, what item or items might you request?

4. What does today's study convey to you about Paul?

THIRD DAY: Read 2 Timothy 4:16–17

1. Roman trials consisted of two hearings. The first hearing was a preliminary investigation. The second was the actual trial. According to 2 Timothy 4:16a, what happened to Paul at his *first defense*?

a. Why do you think this was the case?

2. What was Paul's attitude toward those who were absent at his *first defense*? 2 Timothy 4:16b

a. Link this with Luke 23:33–34 and Acts 7:59–60. What do you see?

(1) How does Paul's example speak to you?

3. Use 2 Timothy 4:17a to record what the Lord did for Paul:

But the Lord _____ with me and _____ me.

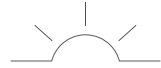
a. Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(1) Psalm 37:39–40

(2) Isaiah 41:10

(3) Jeremiah 20:11

(4) Acts 18:9–10



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

To support a man accused of a capital offense was dangerous. Any associates could have their goods confiscated or be arrested, tried, and condemned.

- (a) What do these truths minister to you about the Lord?
4. According to 2 Timothy 4:17b, what was Paul enabled to do by God's presence and strength?
- a. Connect this with Philippians 1:12–13. What do you see?
 - b. What do you think about Paul's focus even in this situation?
5. In 2 Timothy 4:17c, Paul stated that he *was delivered out of the mouth of the lion*. Such a metaphor could be used in reference to: enemies, Satan (1 Peter 5:8), the Emperor, or the literal threat of lions in the Roman amphitheater. What stands out to you concerning his deliverance?
6. Share a time God *stood* with you and *strengthened* you.

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Timothy 4:18

1. Recalling God's deliverance in Paul's life inspired him to make a powerful declaration of faith. Use this declaration in 2 Timothy 4:18 to note and comment on:

- a. Paul's confidence (verse 18a)

- (1) Connect this with 2 Corinthians 1:10 and 2 Thessalonians 3:3 to remark further on Paul's confidence.

- b. Paul's hope (verse 18b)

- (1) Read the following Scriptures and express the hope you have in Christ:

- (a) Philippians 1:21, 23

- (b) 1 Peter 1:5

- (c) Jude 24

c. Paul's praise (verse 18c)

(1) Considering Paul's circumstances at this time, why is his declaration so remarkable?

2. What aspect of Paul's declaration ministers to you?

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Timothy 4:19–22

1. Paul closed his letter with personal greetings and remarks. In 2 Timothy 4:19a, Paul greeted his friends Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila. Read the following Scriptures and share what you learn about this couple:

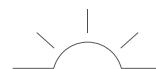
a. Acts 18:1–3

b. Acts 18:24–26

c. Romans 16:3–4

d. 1 Corinthians 16:19

- (1) What stands out to you from the lives of Priscilla and Aquila?
2. In 2 Timothy 4:19b, Paul also greeted *the household of Onesiphorus*. Recall the blessings of this household from 2 Timothy 1:16–18. Apparently, they were serving in Ephesus with Timothy. What do you think it meant for Timothy to have a family like this in his church?
3. In 2 Timothy 4:20, Paul informed Timothy that Erastus was still in Corinth and Trophimus was sick in Miletus. Identify these men using the following Scriptures:
- Erastus (Acts 19:22, Romans 16:23)
 - Trophimus (Acts 20:4; 21:29)
- (1) With so many believers having left Paul, what did he once more urge Timothy to do? 2 Timothy 4:21a



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For years, Bible critics denied the existence of Erastus, an acquaintance of Paul and the treasurer in Corinth. However, in 1929, archeologists discovered a paved area in Corinth where the inscription, dating back to Paul's time, read: "*Erastus in return for his aedileship paved at his own expense.*"



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If Timothy delayed too long in departing (until winter), his trip to Rome would have been difficult and taken longer.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Paul ended every letter he wrote with a blessing of grace. In the phrase, *Grace be with you*, the pronoun *you* is plural. Although all the pastoral letters were addressed to individuals, they were meant to be read aloud to all believers (Titus 3:15).

4. Paul listed Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, as well as other brethren, who sent greetings to Timothy. What does this suggest to you about Paul's friendships?

5. Paul ended his letter to Timothy with a blessing. From 2 Timothy 4:22, record Paul's closing benediction.
 - a. These were most likely Paul's final written words before he died. Why is this a fitting benediction?

 - b. Personalize this benediction by applying it to your present situation or circumstances.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. The conclusion of Paul's final epistle offers a very personal look into his life. From your study this week, share something that spoke to you from Paul's:
 - a. Relationships

 - b. Humanity

 - c. Trials

 - d. Confidence

 - e. Passion for the gospel

2. What is the greatest lesson you have received from studying the book of 2 Timothy?