

(4:9) - Paul wanted Timothy to do his best to come to him. As he had stated in v. 6 Paul knew that his death would be soon. He was confident of his standing in the grace of God in Christ, and he had expressed this many times (*Php. 1:21-24*). Paul had dying grace, and this is the grace of assurance in death that God gives to His children as we set our hope and confidence in Christ, knowing that we are forgiven through His blood and justified by His righteousness imputed to us. Paul wanted to see Timothy and instruct him one last time before dying. The wealth of knowledge Timothy would gain from Paul cannot be over-valued.

(4:10) - Demas had been a companion and fellow-laborer in the truth of the Gospel with Paul. Paul mentions him in *Colossians 4:14* and *Philemon 24*. We do not know the details of what Demas did in forsaking Paul. It may be that he was a true believer who had gone through a moment of weakness as Peter did prior to the crucifixion of our Lord (*Matt. 26:69-75*). It may be that Demas denied Christ totally and apostatized from the faith completely. **“Having loved this present world, and is departed”** is certainly a most serious matter. We know God’s true children will never depart to the point of apostasy, or damnation, but many will at times fail to stand firm in the faith against opposition and persecution. We know it takes the grace of God for any of us not to deny Him in such times. Let us always be ready to restore fallen brothers and sisters (*Gal. 6:1-2*). Crescens and Titus had gone away also but for good reasons and with Paul’s consent; they evidently were sent to minister.

(4:11) - Luke was also a faithful friend and fellow-minister with Paul (*Col. 4:14*). God the Holy Spirit used Luke to write the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. He was a Gentile believer and a physician by trade. Like so many who traveled with Paul, Luke was called on to suffer the reproach of Christ with Paul over the Gospel of God’s grace in Christ. Paul tells Timothy to bring Mark with him. Mark was with Paul and Barnabas earlier, but he had left them. This caused a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas, even separating them. Mark, however, came to be, by the grace of God, a faithful minister of Christ, and Paul recognized Mark’s growth in grace and in knowledge of Christ (*Acts 15:36-40*).

(4:12) - Tychicus was evidently sent to Ephesus to take Timothy’s place in ministering to the church there while Timothy journeyed to Rome to see Paul.

(4:13) - Paul told Timothy to bring with him his **“cloak”** - a large, heavy wool garment that doubled as a coat and blanket in cold weather, which Paul would soon face (v. 21). The **“books”** were papyrus scrolls, possibly copies of Old Testament books. Paul was a diligent student of God’s Word from which He preached the glory and truth of Christ and salvation by God’s grace in HIM (*2 Tim. 2:15*). **“Parchments”** were sheets made of treated animal hides. These were extremely expensive and used probably for writing his letters.

(4:14-15) - **“Alexander the coppersmith”** may be the same person mentioned in *Acts 19:33-34*. Some believe he is the same one Paul mentioned in *1 Timothy 1:20*, but others disagree as Paul singled out this one here as **“the coppersmith.”** Either way, he was an enemy of Christ, of the truth, and Paul. He opposed the Gospel of God’s grace, spread his own false doctrine, and sought to harm Paul. **“The Lord reward him according to his works”** - As in the case of all who reject Christ, God will deal with them on the basis of their

works, whether religious or not. If God judges any sinner on this ground, that sinner will be damned (*Psa. 130:3; Rom. 3:19-20*). It is not that Paul desired this man's damnation, but he simply recognized the reality of a sinner coming before God without Christ, and he left vengeance in God's hands (*Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19*). Alexander was now at Ephesus; and since he was such a malicious blasphemer, Paul warned Timothy to shun him because he resisted Paul's message strongly.

(4:16) - When Paul first came to trial in Rome, he stood alone. None of his friends appeared to plead for him or be a witness for him. Here again we see the weakness of the flesh even in the most dedicated disciples of Christ. They probably feared for their lives. We see the amazing grace and love of God demonstrated in Paul as he did not hold this against them and prayed that God would not impute this sin to them (*Luke 22:32*). This is not recorded to elevate Paul, but to show the greatness of God's grace in Christ toward us and in us.

(4:17) - **"The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me"** - Here is the key to our salvation and our courage under persecution. It is not in ourselves but in and by Christ who will never leave nor forsake us. *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (*Rom. 8:31*). We know God is for us when we seek to honor His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This was Paul's purpose in preaching the Gospel, that sinners might come to fully know the grace, love, and power of Christ to save us from our sins. Paul was God's chosen vessel and instrument to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, even in Caesar's palace. Therefore, he was delivered by the power of God from death, from the hand of Satan, and from the hand of Nero, the Roman emperor. His deliverance was a miracle of God's grace and power in Christ.

(4:18) - Here again we see how the Lord gave Paul dying grace in the assurance of being glorified with Christ. Paul knew he must die the death of this body, but he also knew that Christ was and is His eternal life (*Rom. 8:10-14*). Paul's present hope in Christ was also his future hope in Christ as he was saved and preserved by the grace of God in Christ.

(4:19) - Give my greeting to Priscilla and Aquila (*Acts 18:2-3*) and to the household of Onesiphorus (*2 Tim. 1:16-18*).

(4:20) - Erastus was a steward or official in Corinth (*Rom. 16:23*) who went with Timothy to Macedonia but returned to Corinth to stay. Trophimus was an Asian of the city of Ephesus (*Acts 20:4; 21:29*).

(4:21) - Come to me before winter when traveling will be more difficult. All the brethren here wish to be remembered to you.

(4:22) - 'The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit' to counsel, and advise, to comfort under every trial, to supply with all grace, to keep from every enemy, and to fit you for every service. God's favor and blessings be with you! Amen.