

## 2 Timothy 4:6-22

### Verse 6:

--***For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.***

--***For.*** . . brings Paul's final charge to Timothy into context. It was the dying charge of the aged apostle. The torch is being passed on.

--***I.*** . . is emphatic, meaning *as for myself*, ***am already being poured out as a drink offering.***

--Paul pictures his life as a drink offering to the Lord. Certainly, his mind would go back to the hundreds or thousands of such offerings he had personally made and seen. The wine being poured out on the altar. (**Ex. 29:12, 38-41; Lev. 8:15; 9:9; 23:13; Num. 15:1-10; 28:7, 14**).

--Last time he was in prison, while writing to the Philippians, he had spoken about the *possibility* of his life being poured out as a drink offering.

***\*Philippians 2:17: Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.\****

--But now, writing to Timothy, he is no longer picturing hypotheticals or possibilities. He says he is ***already being poured out***. His life is spilling out in service to the Lord, and his death would be the final drops of himself to His beloved Savior.

--Paul's death was not an accident or injustice. It was an offering. An offering to the Lord.

***\*Where are we pouring out our lives? Where will our final drop fall?\****

***\*John 21:19: This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."\****

--Will our death glorify God? When the time comes. Pour out the last drop for Him!

--***the time of my departure is at hand.***

--Paul is ready for his ***departure***. The Greek word (*analysis*) had five general uses.

1) It was used for a prisoner's release.

--This life is so like a prison for many of us! But freedom is only one step away!

2) It was used for the unyoking of an ox.

--This life is our time of labor. There is no such thing as a Christian spectator!

--The true difficulty of the work will end when we step into His presence. Our labor is not vain!

***\*1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.\****

3) It was used for the striking of a tent or breaking camp.

--We are strangers and pilgrims, setting and removing our tents through the wilderness of this world. We are only passing through! We are also soldiers, moving to and from battle, in enemy territory. We follow our Commander's orders.

4) It was used for the unmooring of a boat.

--We are weighing anchor and starting a new journey! \*C.S. Lewis and J.R. Tolkien famously took up this image of sailing to new worlds in Narnia and Middle Earth.\*

5) It was used for the philosopher's unraveling of a problem.

--One day we will stand before a throne, and at that moment, our mysteries will be solved. All the strange and wonderful parts of this life will find their harmony in His presence.

--How ready are we for our departure? Are our hearts bound to this world? Do we have any bonds with the next? It is hard for youth because of good expectations, but if Christ came for you tonight, what would you **not** regret? Build on that!

#### Verse 7:

**--I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

--I believe that Paul is referencing what he exhorted Timothy and other faithful men to in **2:1-7**. The order of being a soldier, competitor, and farmer is the same.

**--I have fought the good fight.** . . Paul recalls his soldiering.

--He was thankful he gave himself to battling the **good fight**—the *noble, beautiful, or grand* fight. \*What will your life be given to? What did you fight for? The grand or the shallow?\*

**--I have finished the race.** . . Paul recalls his competition.

--Runners never design the course. Runners never determine the conditions. Runners do not control the race. They only run the race.

--God has chosen our course for us. It is the one best suited to our constitution and to help us find Him! \*How have you run? Youth? College? Middle-age? Old age?\*

--For Paul, the end was in sight. He was tired, but he ran by the rules and was going to cross the finish line.

**--I have kept the faith.** . . I think this is a subtle reference to the task of the farmer. The faithful laborer ends up partaking of the fruit. Here, Paul had faithfully attended to the most precious thing he had, the truth of God!

--Paul was finishing his fight, race, and labor in the faith. The battles, challenges, and daily press of life had not caused him to abandon his faith in his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

--Will we too die in faith?

#### Verse 8:

**--Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

**--Finally.** . . or your Bible may say *Henceforth*, means *all that remains*.

--Wonderfully, Paul sees his time of death and departure, but he does not see the end. He sees reward and his Rewarder.

**--There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness!** Beyond death, Paul has a deposit **laid up**. He anticipates the weight of his righteous reward.

--The Scriptures speak about the free gift of salvation that comes to us by grace through faith. That gift is not related to our works. It is the gift of God by the blood of Christ.

--The Scriptures also speak about eternal reward according to works, labor, and faithfulness. We need to hold to both truths as tightly as the Bible does!

**\*Matthew 6:19-21: *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.\****

--Where have you invested most? Heaven or earth? Your heart will be there. God wants us to believe in His character as a Rewarder!

**\*Psalm 31:19: *Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!\****

--Why does Paul have such hope?

--***which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day.*** . . Paul, like so many of those early Christians, was sentenced to death before an unjust human judge. Chrysostom says he was beheaded by Nero, who was enraged that Paul converted the royal cupbearer.

--Paul the apostle, the man whose name was known in heaven and hell, died a poor, disgraced, criminal on earth, but he entered into heaven as an heir of immortality.

**\*2 Peter 1:11: *for an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.\****

--Was this radical hope of kingdom reward only for apostles? No!

--***and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.***

--Paul wants everyone to know that rewards are not just for him, but for anyone who loves Christ and His kingdom.

--The truths of eternal reward either build hope and expectation in the hearts of those who love Christ and His kingdom, or they will cause those who are making no attempt to live for anything other than this world to fear. Praise God for it!

--Jesus Christ died and rose again so that we could live as more than a saved soul and a wasted life. Begin to invest your treasure in heavenly things, and your heart will soon follow!

### **Verses 9-13:**

--***(9) Be diligent to come to me quickly;***

--Paul requests that Timothy come to him right away. He knows his sentence is coming soon, but from personal experience (**Acts 24-26**), he also knows it could be delayed for some time.

--I believe Paul's emphasis is more related to his desire to tie up loose ministry ends rather than loneliness. Certainly, he wants to see Timothy personally (**1:4**), but Paul was also extremely short on help! Some have left him on bad terms, others, on good.

--***(10) for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.***

--Demas was one of Paul's fellow-workers (**Col. 4:4; Philemon 24**).

--Paul's use of the word ***forsaken*** and his charge of ***having loved this present world*** make it clear that Demas' departure was not on good terms.

--Paul does not say that Demas denies God, but that he loves the present pleasures and comforts of this world more than God and His kingdom. Demas chose personal ease and enjoyment of life over service and obedience to the Lord. \*Saved soul. Wasted life.\*

--We don't know anything about Crescens, other than Paul trusted him enough to send him to Galatia.

--Titus is mentioned numerous times in Scripture (**2 Cor. 2:13; 7:6-14; 8:6-23; 12:18; Gal. 2:1-3**). Paul left him in Crete to establish the fledgling churches there (**Titus 1:5**). Apparently he had done so, and Paul had sent him to Dalmatia.

--**(11) Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.**

--Luke, the physician, was also one of Paul's most faithful and trusted travel partners (**Acts 16:10-17; 20:6-16; 21; 27-28; Col. 4:14; Philemon 24**). What a blessing to have a personal physician who is a man of God! Everyone loves a good doctor.

--Mark, in contrast with Demas, was a man who started off badly but ended well! He was originally fearful of the cost of serving the Lord, but he has grown (**Acts 15:36-41**), and is now profitable (**Col. 4:10; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13**). How patient God is with us!

--Paul wants Timothy to pick Mark up on his way to Rome and bring him along.

--**(12) And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.**

--Tychicus was another one of Paul's most faithful co-laborers (**Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7; Titus 3:12**). He was likely the one who brought this letter to Ephesus and delivered it to Timothy. He then took Timothy's place when he left to join Paul. \*Paul never left a flock without a shepherd. Beware of any so-called shepherd who would!\*

--**(13) Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.**

--Paul is a regular human being. He was cold. He asks Timothy to bring his cloak, which would have been a heavy wool garment with a hole cut for the head to go through. Almost like a modern poncho.

--The ***books*** referred to any type of papyrus scroll literary work. This is likely extrabiblical reading material or documents.

--The ***parchments*** were skins or vellum, which were more durable and valuable. These were likely the OT Scriptures or maybe even NT writings such as Luke's gospel.

--What a remarkable picture of the aged apostle still reading and working with his death sentence coming at any moment!

--Yet it is the ***parchments***—the Scriptures—that are ***especially*** important to him. They are the one thing needful.

### Verses 14-15:

***--Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.***

--Alexander was too common a name to connect this one with the other Alexanders mentioned in the Scripture.

--Whoever he was, he harmed Paul. How sad to have your place in history as that of a central role in the martyrdom of Paul the apostle!

--Paul surrenders vengeance to the Lord.

--He then warns Timothy to be careful. Paul expects Alexander to continue to resist **our** words, which were the words of Christ. Wonderfully, Timothy spoke the same words as Paul. We, too, have the privilege of joining Paul and Timothy in making **our words** Christ's words.

### Verses 16-18:

***--(16) At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.***

--Commentators differ on what exactly Paul is referring to here. Either:

- 1) Paul is referencing a trial that happened around his first imprisonment in **Acts 28**.
- 2) Paul is referencing a trial he had just gone through a short while ago, the outcome of which was a delayed, until a second trial or sentencing.

--I believe the second context is the correct one for a few reasons:

- 1) Timothy didn't need to be informed about the events of **Acts 28**.
- 2) A trip to Troas (**13**) doesn't really fit into the timeline for the **Acts 28** imprisonment.
- 3) The description of Paul's **Acts 28** imprisonment doesn't give us any indication or evidence that he was ever forsaken by friends. In fact, we get the very opposite impression.
- 4) Most importantly, the context of this letter is new and recent information. Paul is not writing about things that happened years ago. His letter deals with pressing, current issues.

--What happened? We don't know fully, but whatever the scenario, Paul was forced to defend himself at first, and his defense was so good that sentencing was delayed, or there was still a pending accusation that hadn't been substantiated, and subsequent trial was to be held.

--Sadly, no other Christians came to speak on Paul's behalf. Whoever could have seemed to be too fearful of the consequences. Paul says they **forsook** him, which was the same Greek word (*egkataleipo*) he used of Demas in **10**. \*No doubt others like Luke or Timothy were not present and therefore unable to stand on his behalf.\*

--We will all face situations where all human help fails. Even Jesus had all His disciples run away and leave Him alone. **\*Mk. 14:50\***

--His forgiveness is so much like Christ's (**Luke 23:34**) and Stephen's (**Acts 7:60**).

***--(17) But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.***

--No man stood with him, but the Lord draws near when others fade! \*Hunted by cannibal tribes and hiding in a chestnut tree at night.\*

\*Paton (John G. Paton): *"I climbed into the tree, and was left there alone in the bush. The hours I spent there live all before me as if it were but of yesterday. I heard the frequent discharging of muskets, and the yells of savages. Yet I sat there among the branches, as safe in the arms of Jesus. Never, in all my sorrows, did my Lord draw nearer to me, and speak more soothingly in my soul, than when the moonlight flickered among these chestnut leaves, and the night air played on my throbbing brow, as I told all my heart to Jesus. Alone, yet not alone! If it be to glorify my God, I will not grudge to spend many nights alone in such a tree, to feel again my Savior's spiritual presence, to enjoy His consoling fellowship. If thus thrown back upon your own soul, alone, all alone, in the midnight, in the bush, in the very embrace of death itself, have you a Friend that will not fail you then?"\**

--Paul was strengthened by the Lord to testify of the Lord! He had gone right to the heart of the Gentile world with that testimony. **\*Rom. 15:19; 1 Thess. 1:8\***

--Paul was delivered from literal lions, or the figurative lions against him.

**--(18) And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!**

--Finally, Paul knows that he will be delivered *through death* from the *presence* of every evil work. This is our hope! We are saved from evil when we enter His heavenly kingdom.

#### **Verses 19-22:**

**--(19) Greet Prisca and Aquilla, and the household of Onesiphorus.**

--Paul gives his final greetings. Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned six times in the Scripture. They traveled with Paul from Corinth (**Acts 18:1-3**), to Ephesus (**Acts 18:18-26; 1 Cor. 16:19**), to Rome (**Romans 16:3-4**), and apparently now back to Ephesus.

--Onesiphorus was previously mentioned (**1:16**).

**--(20) Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.**

--Erastus a fellow-laborer (**Acts 19:22; Rom. 16:23**) made his own choice to stay in Corinth. Everyone didn't always obey everything Paul wanted (**1 Cor. 16:12**).

--Trophimus got sick and had to be left behind. Everyone was not always healed by Paul—Timothy included. Miletus was some 36 miles south of Ephesus. Trophimus hadn't gotten far traveling. God sometimes determines our service through health.

**--(21) Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.**

--Winter would hinder travel.

--We don't know much about these other people, though they were most likely known by Timothy from his previous service in Rome.

--(22) *The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.*

--*your spirit* is singular and therefore a specific word to Timothy. This is all that matters in the end!

--*with you* is plural, *you all*, and therefore meant for the hearers of the epistle.

--The grace of God given to all is a fitting end as the apostle's last written words.