

2 Timothy 4:9-22 Part 12 Participants Guide – 2 Timothy Series

The Main Idea: Loneliness Stalks where the Buck Stops.

Discussion Questions:

- Read through the book of 2 Timothy 4:9-22. Jot down what stands out to you.
- Leadership and loneliness usually go hand in hand. That might be a surprise to people who have not been called to fill leadership positions. Agree or disagree with this statement: “Loneliness Stalks where the Buck Stops.” Has that proven true in your life?
- It is no surprise that the last part of Paul’s last letter focuses on other people, the many friends, and a few foes, who influenced his ministry in one way or another. Paul knew they were involved in everything he did, and in these closing verses he recognizes and remembers this network of people. Even he could not effectively minister alone. Who would your list include? Who has helped you? Who has hurt or hindered you?
- Both Demas and Alexander brought great pain to Paul. In what way was Paul hurt by them? How was the hurt different?
- Paul said the Demas deserted him because he “loved the world.” Look at the passages and see why this was such a hurtful thing to Paul. Read 1 John 2:15-17, Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21
 - The worldly pursuits of money power status pleasure or possessions Jesus identified as the enemy of God's Kingdom. John 15:18-19.
 - The world represented the fallen world system, which operates according to Satan's values and subject to curse of sin. Genesis 3:14-19.
 - Also represented the people who live by its values and willingly serves its ends. Jesus originally came to redeem the world but the world rejected him, therefore he began to separate ‘his own’ from the world. John 10:14, 26-27, 13:1, 15-19.
- Read 2 Timothy 4:7, 2 Corinthians 11:23-27, 1 Corinthians 9:25, Luke 13:24, Colossians 1:29, 4:12. Paul recognized that he was in a Spiritual Struggle, both from the Outside and the Inside. Read the quote below and interact with it.
- Read 2 Timothy 4:13. What does Paul’s request for his cloak and scrolls and parchments tell us about Paul?
- 2 Timothy 4:14-15, Romans 12:19, Proverbs 24:29. What is Paul’s concern about Alexander and what will his end be?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:16-17. All deserted Paul but One. Look up the passage below. How does this bring you encouragement?
 - When Paul had been discouraged in Corinth, the Lord came to him and encouraged him (Acts 18:9–11).
 - After he had been arrested in Jerusalem, Paul again was visited by the Lord and encouraged (Acts 23:11).
 - During that terrible storm, when Paul was on board ship, the Lord had again given him strength and courage (Acts 27:22ff).
 - Now, in that horrible Roman prison, Paul again experienced the strengthening presence of the Lord, who had promised, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5).
- It is heartening to see how many people are named in the closing part of this last letter Paul wrote. There are at least 100 different men and women named in Acts and Paul’s letters, as a part of his circle of friends and fellow laborers. Paul could not do the job by himself. It is a great man or woman who enlists others to help get the job done, and who lets them share in the greatness of the work.
 1. Where you are lonely, you need caring close friends
 2. When you are hurt, you need loyal advocates
 3. When you are loved, you need to be grateful
 4. When you are needy, admit it

Action:

If you knew you had a short time to live, what would you want to say? Take time to write a letter and tuck it away in your bible as a point of reference that you can add too over time.

PRAYER REQUESTS