



2 Timothy 4:9-22

TAKING CARE OF PRACTICAL NEEDS

Luke accompanied Paul on his first journey to Rome and to prison. He was the writer of the Book of Acts. Now there are certain passages of Acts which are written in the first person plural and we can be quite sure that Luke is here describing occasions on which he himself was actually present. Acts 27:1-44 describes Paul setting out under arrest for Rome and the story is told in the first person. Therefore, we can be sure that Luke was there. From that we deduce something else. It is thought that when an arrested prisoner was on his way to trial at Rome, he was allowed to be accompanied by two slaves, and it is therefore probable that Luke enrolled himself as Paul's slave in order to be allowed to accompany him to Rome and to prison. Little wonder that Paul speaks of him with love in his voice. Surely devotion could go no farther. In Colossians 4:14, Luke is described as the beloved physician. Paul owed much to Luke. All his life he had the torturing thorn in his flesh; and Luke must have been the man who used his skill to ease his pain and enable him to go on. Luke was essentially a man who was kind. He does not seem to have been a great evangelist; he was the man who made his contribution in terms of personal service. God had given him healing skill in his hands, and Luke gave back that skill to God. Kindness is the quality which lifts a man out of the lot of ordinary men. Eloquence will be forgotten; mental cleverness may live on the printed page; but kindness lives on enthroned in the hearts of men.

—William Barclay

THE IMPERATIVES OF 2 TIMOTHY

1. Do not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ nor of me His prisoner. (1:8)
2. Share with me in the sufferings for the gospel. (1:8)
3. Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you heard from me. (1:13)
4. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you. (1:14)
5. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2:1)
6. Commit the things you have heard to faithful people. (2:2)
7. Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (2:3)
8. Consider what I say. (2:7)
9. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. (2:8)
10. Remind them of these things, charging them not to quarrel. (2:14)
11. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God. (2:15)
12. Avoid godless and empty chatter. (2:16)
13. Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (2:19)
14. Flee youthful passions. (2:22)
15. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. (2:22)
16. Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes. (2:23)
17. Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. (3:1)
18. Turn away from such people [who claim God but live sinfully]. (3:5)
19. Continue in the things that you have learned. (3:14)
20. Preach the Word! (4:2)
21. Be ready in season and out of season! (4:2)
22. Convince! (4:2)
23. Rebuke! (4:2)
24. Encourage! (4:2)
25. Be self-controlled in all things. (4:5)
26. Endure hardship. (4:5)
27. Do the work of an evangelist. (4:5)
28. Fulfill your ministry. (4:5)

Paul had before his eyes the death which he was prepared to endure for the testimony of the gospel. All that we read [in 2 Timothy], therefore, concerning the kingdom of Christ, the hope of eternal life, the Christian warfare, confidence in confessing Christ, and the certainty of doctrine, ought to be viewed by us as written not with ink but with Paul's own blood.

—John Calvin (1509-64)

No matter how fierce the enemy seems—when fear cripples us, anger enrages us, or selfishness possesses us; when adversity crushes us, opposition hounds us, or temptation plagues us—God is greater.

—Katy Kauffman

This is the main burden of the apostle's pleading with Timothy, "Hold fast!" We have equal need of the same exhortation, for this is an evil day, and thousands hold everything or nothing as the winds of opinion may change.

—Charles Spurgeon (1834-92)

FIVE PRACTICAL NEEDS THAT WE ALL HAVE

1. We need close _____ (4:9-11; 19-21).

- Friendship is vital to our spiritual, emotional, mental, and _____ health (Timothy and Luke).
- Friendship involves _____ (Demas).
- Friendship needs _____ chances (John Mark).
- Friendship needs to span across _____, gender, and marital status (Priscilla & Aquila, Claudia, etc.).

2. We need physical _____ (4:11; 4:13).

3. We need great _____ (4:12-13).

4. We need wise _____ (4:14-15).

5. We need true _____ (4:16-18).

And in all things we need God's grace, strength, and peace!

*The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Grace be with you.
Amen.*

One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives. [Prov. 18:24]

—Euripides (480-406 BC)

The greatest pain we will ever know is relational. It is the potential of people to devastate us, to destroy us, to abuse us... The most serious pain we suffer in the world comes from unfulfilled and devastated relationships. No disease is as painful as rejection.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

Books are tools. The quality of some sermons heard today makes one suspect that some preachers have not read a serious book since they graduated from seminary.

—Homer A. Kent

People have enough to live by but nothing to live for; they have the means but no meaning.

—Viktor Frankl (1905-97)

*I haven't met too people who actually ask the purpose question out loud: **Why am I alive?** Yet as we make choices, determine commitments, and set priorities, we ask and answer it all the time.*

—Kathy Koch

Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only for one second without hope.

—Hal Lindsey

Throughout 4:9-22, there is much similarity with that of Psalm 22—forsaken (22:1); delivered (22:4-5); there is none to help (22:11); save me from the lion's mouth (22:21); all the families of the Gentiles shall bow down before Him for the kingdom is the Lord's (22:27-28). Had Paul, like his Master, been saying this Psalm in the hour of desertion?

—Walter Lock (1846-1933)