



SERMON HANDOUT for June 2, 2024

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

YOU MAY RUN OUT OF A LOT OF THINGS IN LIFE,
BUT YOU WILL NEVER RUN OUT OF GOD'S LOVE!

Sermon Series: **Perseverance (2 Timothy)**

PERSEVERANCE – THROUGH BETRAYAL!

(Everyone Who Starts with You will not always end with You!

2 Timothy 4:9-22 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

No treachery is worse than betrayal by a family member or friend.

Julius Caesar knew such treachery.

- ⊗ Among conspirators who assassinated the Roman leader on March 15, 44 BC was Marcus Junius Brutus.
- ⊗ Caesar not only trusted Brutus, he favored him as a son.
- ⊗ According to Roman historians, Caesar first resisted the onslaught of the assassins.
- ⊗ But when he saw Brutus among them with his dagger drawn, Caesar ceased to struggle and, pulling the top part of his robe over his face, asked the famous question, “**You too, Brutus?**”

David expressed this feeling betrayal:

- Psalm 55:12-14 NLT
 - Psalm 41:9 NLT
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TO PERSEVERANCE THROUGH BETRAYAL, WE MUST:

1) RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR _____ - 2 Timothy 4:9-13 NKJV

- Paul is still hoping Timothy will manage to come to him.
Desire to see Timothy is heightened by the movements of his other associates.
Saddest of all – **Demas** deserted him.
Demas was one of Paul’s close associates (Colossians 4:14 NKJV)

- We presume that the going was too hard for **Demas**
The pull of the world was too strong,
Thus **Demas** backslid.
 - Reference to **Luke** is significant – now Paul’s sole support.
Do you have that one Friend like Luke?
 - **Luke** and **Mark**, as well as **Demas** are mentioned in Colossians.
Paul’s request to bring **Mark** implies forgiveness
Mark left Paul and Barnabus in Perga in Pamphlyia (Acts 13:13 NKJV)
 - Particular urgency in Paul’s request that Timothy should bring to him his *cloak*.
Does this suggest that he was cold in his imprisonment?
 - Also particular interest in the *scrolls* and *parchments*.
What these were – it is impossible to say.
They may have been OT texts,
Or perhaps Paul’s personal papers,
Or some of each.
Nevertheless, in the last days of his life, these items – of special importance to Paul.
 - **He wants his close friends and possessions with him as he transitions from earth to heaven!**
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2) RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL PAINFUL _____ - 2 Tim. 4:14-16 NKJV

Persecution comes from those who **Oppose** you!

Pain comes from those who **Desert** you!

2 Timothy 4:14-15 NKJV

- Reference to **Luke** is significant – now Paul’s sole support.
- A warning against **Alexander** the coppersmith/metalworker.
- May be the Alexander mentioned in:
 - † Acts 19:33-34 NLT
 - † 1 Timothy 1:20 NLT

Paul refers to the great harm **Alexander** had done, defined as opposition to Paul’s message.

2 Timothy 4:14b NKJV

- Echoes the words of...
 - † Psalm 62:12 NKJV
 - † Proverbs 24:12 NKJV
 - † Romans 2:6 NKJV

2 Timothy 4:16a NKJV

- **The first defense** must have been a preliminary examination.
Since Paul gives no further information – it is impossible to pin-point this occasion.
What concerns him most – no-one came to his support.
This implies that the Roman Christians did not come to his assistance...
Since the apostle speaks of being deserted – he evidently felt that he had been badly let down...
 - *Have you ever felt that way?*
Where someone you counted on to come to your defense or aid, just didn't?
They knew what you were going through, but they simply refused to come?
Or Call? Or even Text?
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3) RECOGNIZE THE LORD'S _____ - 2 Tim. 4:17-18 NKJV

2 Timothy 4:17-18 NKJV

Contrast to the desertion of others,
Paul was encouraged – the Lord stood by him.
Paul claims to have received courage to proclaim the gospel even at his trial.

Clearly, if he is referring to his trial, *all* the Gentiles did not hear, if the words are taken literally.

that the message might be fully proclaimed literally means
'that the proclamation of the message might be fulfilled.'

Some say ***lion*** was the emperor Nero,
But this is a common metaphor for **danger** and probably no more is intended.
Elsewhere in the NT ***lion*** is symbolic of **Satan**
1 Peter 5:8 NKJV
Paul ends on a confident note – leads him into a spontaneous doxology.

2 Timothy 4:18b NKJV - To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!

This would be in harmony with his reference to God's ***heavenly kingdom***.

There is here a strong contrast between

Paul's present tribulations under an earthly kingdom
and

that more enduring and victorious heavenly kingdom to which he looks forward.
