

2Timothy 4:9-

vs 9 Paul longed to impart some final training into Timothy's life before he was executed. We should realize that what we pour into others is what will still produce fruit here, especially toward the end of our ministry.

vs 10 Demas, what a tragic statement. What volumes are said here in a line. We love Jesus or the World. These are the great contenders for our affection. Deceitful desires will drag us to the world or we will allow the Holy Spirit to implant in our hearts a love for the Son that outshines anything the world has to offer.

vs 11 Luke probably was penning this letter for Paul. Next to Paul and maybe John, this Greek physician probably had the most influence on the New Testament. What a comfort he must have been to Paul in those last days. Mark who early on had deserted the Paul and Barnabas team, now was highly valued. Acts 15:37-40 That is encouraging. Here again we see the unlimited patience of God and that Paul was a forgiving soul.

vs 12, 13 He thinks he may survive till winter and would need the warm cloak for his aging scarred body. The parchments were probably parts of the Old Testament. We are never too knowledgeable in the word to stop studying. Even right before His death he wanted to be in God's word.

vs14,15 Vengeance is mine, says the Lord, I will repay. This is probably the metal worker of Acts 19:33 who was a Jew. He is also mentioned at the end of 1Tim 1. Here is a good example of honesty about those who are set in evil but not entering into a personal smear campaign against them.

vs16 What a sad comment. It is hard standing alone, as we are a body, even when you know the next verse is true. Fear of being executed caused the believers to distance themselves. The jaws of lions were frightening. Roman intimidation worked. But Paul is forgiving, following the example of the Lord.

vs 17 The Lord standing with us is what gets us through the toughest of trials. He gives us the boldness and the words to share the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. 'Delivered from the mouth of lions' was a term that meant not sentenced or a reprieve.

vs 18 Not that he would never be sentenced to death for he just said he would, but that it would be in the Lord's time and end in full entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. 2Pt 1:10,11

vs 19 –22 His final word – 'Your' in the plural, meaning this was for the church there. May the Lord indeed reign in our spirits and grace overflow in our lives.