

# Final Thoughts

Adjusting Our Life Expectations  
2 Timothy 4:9-22

Paul was a TEAM Player

Showing that living for Jesus requires INTERDEPENDENCY

Paul adjusted his life EXPECTATIONS

He accepted both the thrill of VICTORY and the agony of DEFEAT

- Faithful COMPANIONS, RESTORED relationships, co-workers

SENT out

- Pain: REJECTION, separation, OPPOSITION
- Experienced LACK: physical and ministry needs

Paul was grounded by God's FAITHFULNESS

God 'STOOD with me' – Deut. 31:8; Matthew 10:29-30; Heb. 4:16

God 'STRENGTHENED me' – Psalm 46:7, 54:4, 73:26

God 'fully ACCOMPLISHED' through me – Philippians 1:6, 2:13

God 'rescued... will RESCUE' me – Psalm 48:14, 125:2

Auburn Grace Community Church – April 2, 2023

## Life Group Discussion Questions – April 2, 2023

**2 Timothy 4:16-18** *At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**DISCOVER** (Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22)

1. Name a person you would like to visit whom you haven't seen in awhile. What would you say to them? What one thing would you try to impress upon them? Why is this so important to you?
2. In this passage, how many names does Paul reference? What's Paul implying by identifying all these acquaintances? Demas and Alexander are mentioned in negative context. Do you think they were close, trusted companions of Paul? Explain.
3. Have you ever left a ministry for good reason even though it left the ministry in need? Was it the right thing to do? Looking back, was the decision to leave made in the flesh or were you prompted by the Spirit of God? What might a "do-over" look like?
4. When we get close relationally in ministry work, our imperfections are exposed. Suppose you discover that a brother/sister on your team is quick-tempered. How do you handle this?

**EXPLORE**

1. Compare and contrast John Mark and Demas as ministry partners of Paul. (see Acts 13:13; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10, 14; Philemon 1:23-24) Why, might you guess, was John Mark reconciled to Paul but not Demas?
2. How was Paul resilient in the mission given by Jesus? Where do you see others being resilient in ministry at church?
3. In vs. 14-15, we find that Alexander, a colleague of Paul's, "vigorously opposed" his teaching. Read Romans 12:17-21. This is a blueprint for how we should respond when someone vehemently rejects us. Specific to this matter, give an example of how we can "respect what is right in the sight of all men."

**EXPERIENCE**

1. Paul gave Mark a second chance as we see in verse 11. Is there someone you need to give a second chance? How do you approach reconciliation with someone? Can disputes be settled without both sides showing humility? What are the differences between reconciliation, resolution and restoration?
2. We can all agree that life gets messy. What kind of adjustments should we make to our expectations? How can we do this so that we aren't consistently ensnared by our expectations when it comes to relationships? How has serving Jesus surprised you (not turning-out the way you expected)?
3. Generally speaking, do we choose temporary pleasure or gratification or do we have an eternal perspective? If we sing praise songs announcing our great love for God, but then choose this world instead, those praises will ring hollow and profane. How can we be disciplined in keeping eternity in our hearts and minds?

**PRAY**

**Pray...** *Father in Heaven, I confess that I find so much of this world as alluring. Help me to live every moment with a steeled focus on Jesus. Compel me to righteously respond to those who are being attacked, especially those who need defending for Your sake. Rescue me from the lion's mouth and from every evil. Save me for Your heavenly Kingdom. For the glory of Your great Name. Amen.*

**Apply...** *What one new way can you love God instead of the world this week? (see 1 John 2:15)*