

Loyalty

Text: 2 Timothy 4:9-18

Intro

Lack of loyalty in culture

2 Timothy 4:9-18

⁹Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I. The Causes of Disloyalty

A. Love of the world – Demas – 4:10

2 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

B. Hatred for Christ and the gospel – 4:14-15

2 Timothy 4:14-15

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

C. Ashamed of the gospel and the gospel message – 4:16

2 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

II. The Display of Loyalty

A. One hundred names are listed in the Book of Acts and the Pauline Epistles - names of people who were partners with Paul in the Gospel.

B. Household of Onesiphorus -1:16-18

2 Timothy 1:16-18

¹⁶May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

C. Luke – 4:11

2 Timothy 4:11

¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Luke, the beloved physician, traveled with Paul (Col 4:14) and was the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts. The “We” portions of Acts indicated where Luke was with Paul and gave eyewitness reports. Paul may have dictated this letter to Luke to write for him.

D. Other loyal supporters

2 Timothy 4:9-10

⁹Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

- 1. Crescens (verse 10)** – was sent by Paul to Galatia. This is all we know about him. He was another unsung hero and faithful laborer who assisted Paul in the hour of his need.
- 2. Titus (verse 10)** – was Paul’s close associate and along with Timothy a faithful infant church trainer. Titus and Timothy were often sent by Paul to troubleshoot problems in the infant churches Paul planted. Paul had sent Titus to Crete to straighten out the problems in that church (Titus 1:5). Now he sent Titus to Dalmatia (present-day Albania and a portion of Yugoslavia, known in the Bible as Illyricum – Rom 15:19).
- 3. Tychicus (4:12)** – was a faithful believer from the Province of Asia (Acts 20:4) who accompanied Paul and probably was his personal servant. He was with Paul in his first Roman imprisonment (Eph 6:21-22; Col 4:7-8). Paul had sent Tychicus to Crete to relieve Titus (Titus 3:12). Now he has sent him to Ephesus to relieve Timothy. What a blessing spiritual relief pitchers are. They may not get the glory, but they are essential in winning the game.
¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.
- 4. Carpus (4:13)** – lived at Troas and gave Paul hospitality. Paul must have departed quickly from Troas because he left his cloak and books there.
¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.
- 5. Erastus - 4:20; Acts 19:22; Rom 16:23**
(2 Tim 4:20 NIV) Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

(Acts 19:22 NIV) He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

(Rom 16:23 NIV) Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.
- 6. Trophimus – 4:20; Acts 20:4; 21:29**
(Acts 20:4 NIV) He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

(Acts 21:29 NIV) (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area.)

III. The Rebirth of Loyalty

A. John Mark – 4:11

2 Timothy 4:11

¹⁷Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

John Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:13).

Mark was with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment (Col 4:10; Phile 1:24)

Colossians 4:10

¹⁰My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

(Phile 1:24 NIV) "And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers."

B. The response to repentance and disloyalty – 4:16

2 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

IV. The Divine Promise of Loyalty – 4:17-18

2 Timothy 4:17

¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

A. The promise - Never leave us – Heb 13:5

(Heb 13:5 NIV) Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

B. The results – the gospel proclaimed, testimony for Christ in the imperial courts – 4:17

(2 Tim 4:17 NIV) But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

C. The reprieve – delivered from the lion's mouth – 4:17

"And I was delivered from the lion's mouth."

D. The spiritual rescue – 4:18

2 Timothy 4:18

¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.