

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

# Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

## Paul's Valedictory

**2 Timothy 4:1-22**

Lesson 21

This week, we are coming to the close of our amazing journey with the apostle Paul through the books of 1 Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy. We opened these books determined to equip ourselves for life in these last days, and that is just what we have done. Here in chapter 4, Paul gives us his closing speech just as a valedictorian at a graduation ceremony would give his fellow classmates a final word of hope and encouragement for the future. Paul's valedictory address contains wise admonitions for his beloved audience which includes Timothy and the church.

First, Paul boldly instructs them to preach the Word. Paul knew that there was nothing that could ever replace the importance of the Word of God to guide his disciples into all truth. He was confident that nothing, not even the gates of hell, would prevail against them if they stood on the Word of God. This encouragement is equally as true for us today. Don't get caught up in the entertainment and distractions of this world. They will only serve to divert your attention away from the Lord and what matters most. Instead, stay in the Word, pray for an eternal perspective, and keep a light touch on the things of this world.

Paul also exhorts Timothy to fulfill his ministry. This is a reminder to all of us that, as long as we are here on earth, we have a God-ordained ministry to fulfill. We might not be pastors or preachers, but we can lovingly share the good news of the Gospel with those in our lives. We have each been given gifts and talents to use for the building up of His body and we should make the most of every opportunity since we know our time is short!

Although we have come to our last homework lesson, what we have gained in our hearts and minds will forever be with us. As we close out our Women's Bible Study for this year, there are no better words than these to leave you with. Be diligent in your walk with the Lord. No matter what you face, stay in the race and fight the good fight of faith. Above all else, remain faithful to the Lord and to His work until the day He returns!

## Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

### **This Week's Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-22**

*"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup>But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. <sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. <sup>9</sup>Be diligent to come to me quickly; <sup>10</sup>for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. <sup>12</sup>And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup>Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. <sup>14</sup>Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. <sup>15</sup>You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. <sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. <sup>18</sup>And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! <sup>19</sup>Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup>Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. <sup>21</sup>Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. <sup>22</sup>The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen."* NKJV

### **This Week's Memory Verse:**

***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."***

**2 Timothy 4:7**

1. Paul begins his final chapter with the statement, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ." What does he charge Timothy to do in verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_

a. To recap what we learned from last week, what reason is given for this charge in 2 Timothy 3:16-17? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Verse 2 of this week's scripture exhorts us to be ready in season and out of season. Look up 1 Peter 3:15 and note what it says about being ready. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Why do you think it is so important for us to be ready? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do verses 3-4 of this week's passage say about "itching ears"? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Read Romans 10:17 and note what happens through hearing the Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_

b. In light of the above verses, what do you think will happen if people's ears are drawn away by false doctrine? \_\_\_\_\_

*"Its critics, who claimed it to be filled with forgery, fiction, and unfulfilled promises, are finding that the difficulties lie with themselves, and not the Bible. Greater and more careful scholarship has shown that apparent contradictions were caused by incorrect translations rather than divine inconsistencies. It was man and not the Bible that needed correcting. It is the blueprint of the Master Architect."*

*– Billy Graham (1918–2018)*

**Personal Examination**

Paul understood that the time of his departure was coming very soon. Read the three statements Paul made in verse 7 below and note whether or not you think you would be able to say the same at the end of your life.

I have fought the good fight: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have finished the race: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have kept the faith: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not think you could say the same thing, what changes do you feel God is calling you to make? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. According to verse 8, what does Paul now look forward to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a. What hint of what is to come is found in 1 Corinthians 2:9? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“All the scriptural imagery (harps, crowns, gold, etc.) is, of course, a merely symbolical attempt to express the inexpressible. Musical instruments are mentioned because for many people (not all) music is the thing known in the present life which most strongly suggests ecstasy and infinity. Crowns are mentioned to suggest the fact that those who are united with God in eternity share his splendor and power and joy. Gold is mentioned to suggest the timelessness of heaven (gold does not rust) and the preciousness of it. People who take these symbols literally might as well think that when Christ told us to be like doves, he meant that we were to lay eggs.”*

– C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)



