

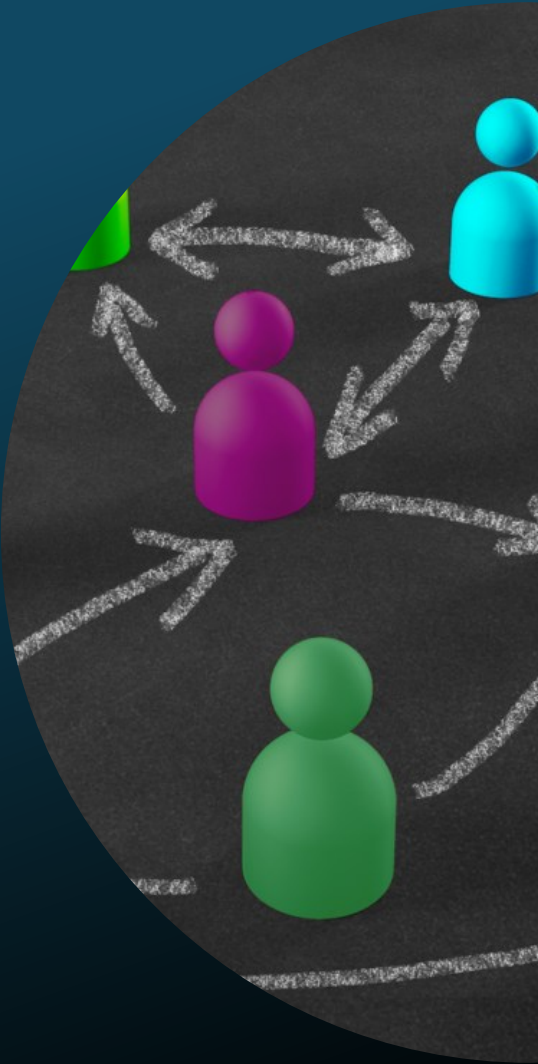


Ministry is About Relationships!

2 Tim. 4:9-22

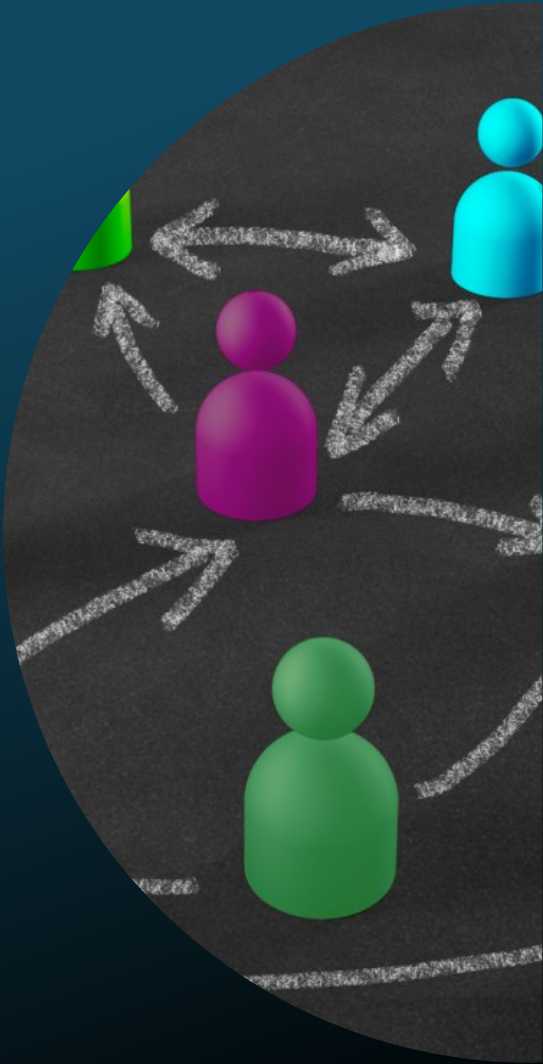
2 Tim. 4:9-22

⁹ Make every effort to come to me soon,
¹⁰ because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry. ¹² I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, as well as the scrolls, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. ¹⁵ Watch out for him yourself because he strongly opposed our words.



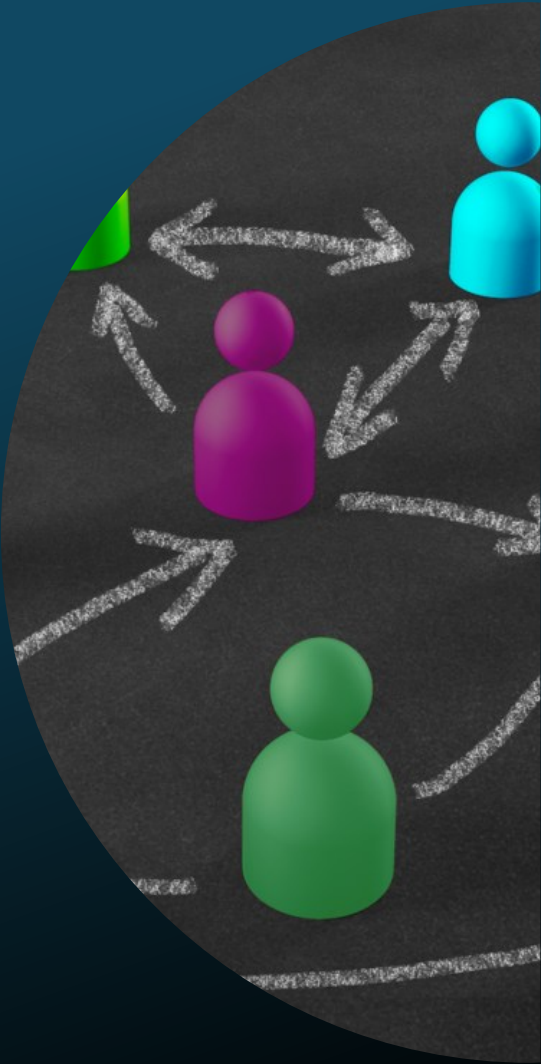
2 Tim. 4:9-22

¹⁶ At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.



2 Tim. 4:9-22

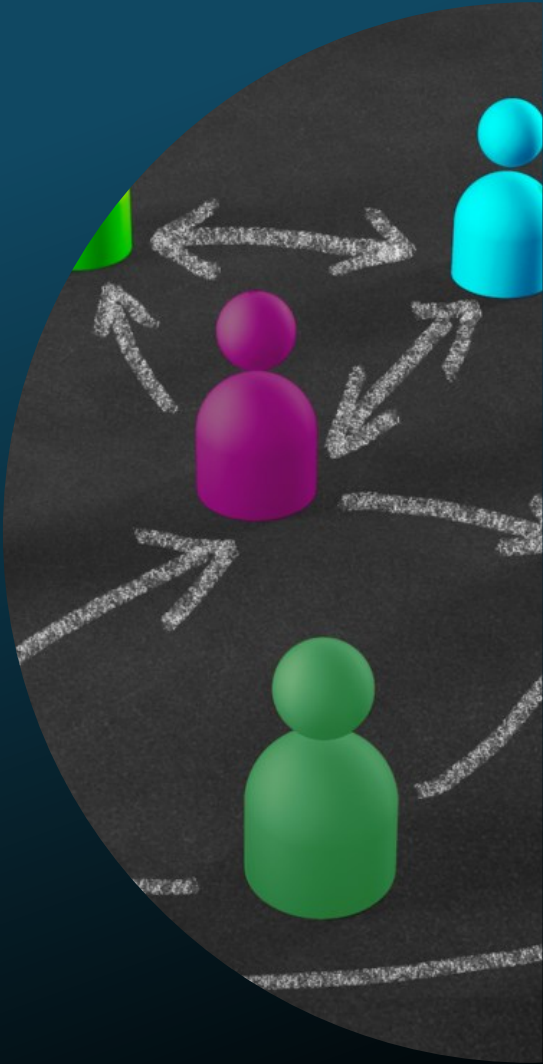
¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus has remained at Corinth; I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. ²¹ Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters. ²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.



Relationships

As Paul nears the end of his life, he is thinking about the relationships he has made...

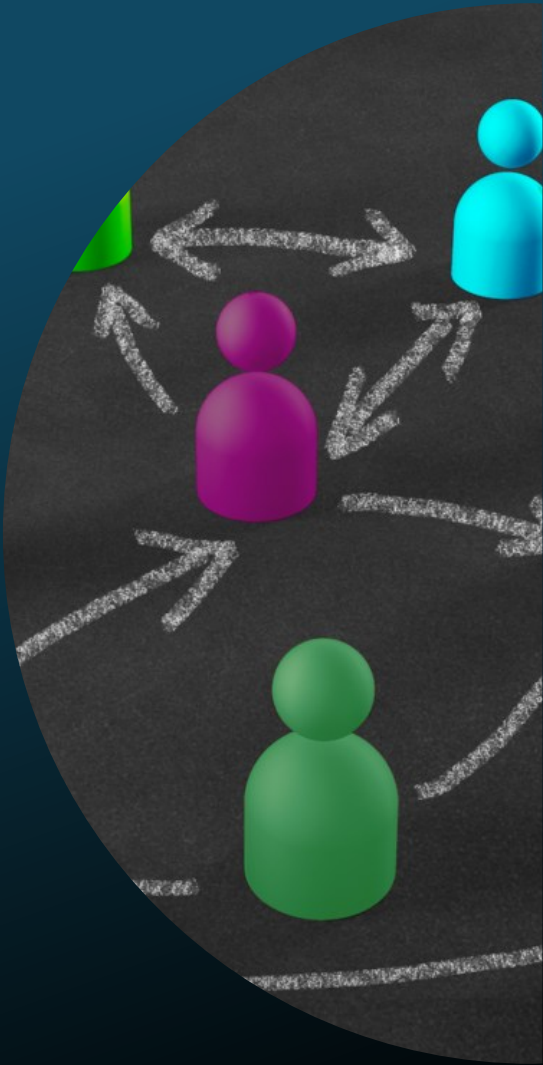
Relationships that rested squarely on the foundation of the gospel...



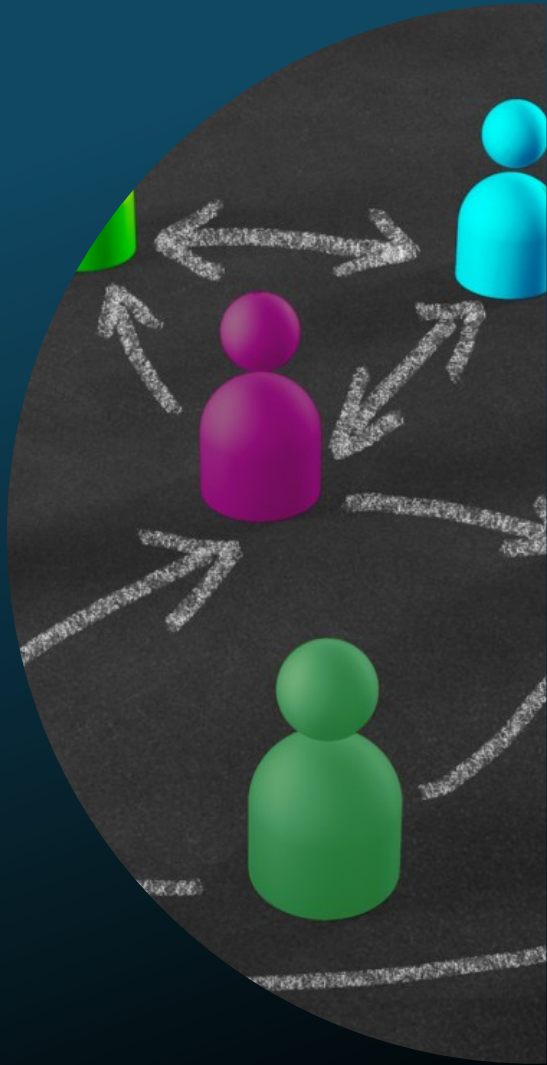
1. Relationships are Challenging

*“Make every effort to come to me soon...”
2 Tim. 4:9*

- a) They are Risky, - *“Demas has deserted me... Alexander did great harm to me... at my first defense no one stood with me everyone deserted me...”* v. 10, 14, 15, 16
- b) They are Rewarding, *“Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry...”* v. 11



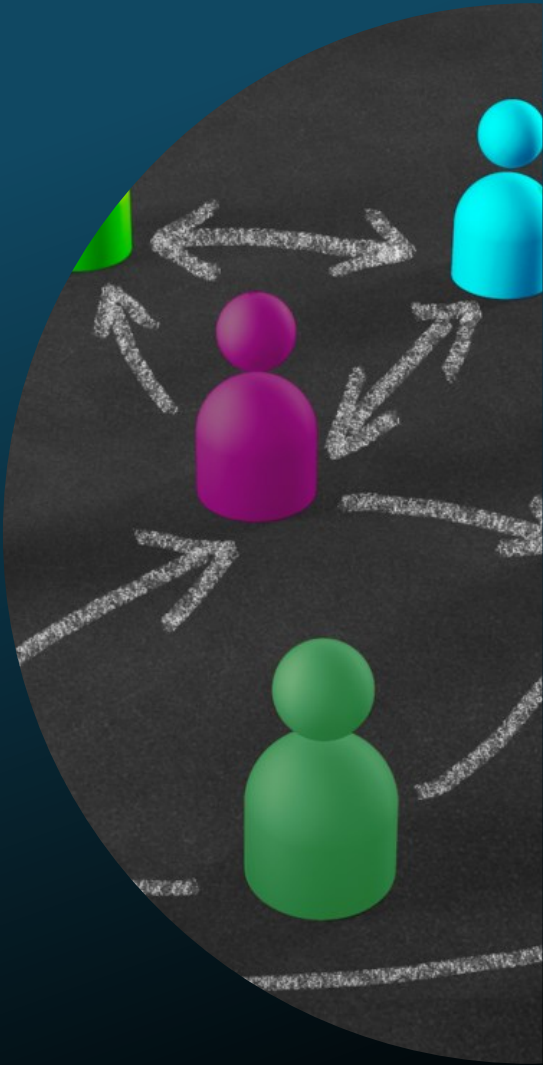
2. Relationships can Multiply our Impact



- a) The width and breadth – There are 17 people mentioned in v. 9-22; men & women; they cover a wide geographic area...
- b) The length and depth – Ministry outlives everyone of us... The need for the gospel continue continues until Jesus comes...

3. Relationships must be Evaluated

- a) Presence is vital, v. 9, 11, 13
- b) Communication is necessary
- c) Forgiveness & grace are not optional, v. 11, 16, 22; Acts 12:24; 13:4-13; 15:36-41
- d) Boundaries protect, v. 14,15
- e) Only the LORD is always faithful v. 16-18



What is God Saying to You?

How is your “relationship” with God?

Can you call Him your Father?

Have you been born into His Family through
the “New Birth?”

If you were to stand before God and hear the question:
“Why should I allow you into My heaven?”

What would you say?

What is God Saying to You?

Do you have relationships that need work?

¹⁶ *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation.* ¹⁷ *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes.* ¹⁸ *If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Rom. 14:16-18*