2Thess #175

The Apostle Paul’s last roll call.

Open back up today in 2Timothy chapter four where we left off.

Our brother in Christ, Pastor Benjiman who resides over an African bible group, has sent me an email; saying they have been using my booklets “Today you will be in paradise” and also my Angel book, for their studies.

Also, Operation Bible drop, has disturbed hundreds of copies in and around Africa of our evangelist booklets – they are our work…not mine.

Because of you folks who support the ministry we are going into our 5th Bible Conference this fall in San Antonio, Texas.

Because of you folks - we have another book about Christian leadership coming out this year.

Because of your support the ministry donates to about a dozen non-profits regularly and also supports a boy named Varma, in India through Child-Fund for 3 years now.

Because of your support we have about 5 social media platforms that currently play all my messages and a fully function website which is growing rapidly.

You folks who truly support this ministry made that happen!

Your time, talent and treasure matters.

Which is also related to our current study we will look at today.

Today we will read thru the Apostle Paul’s last roll call…his last morning report and I will give you information on each individual.

This is the Apostle Paul’s last letter before he was executed.

At this intersection of the chapter, we see a very informative report of all the people who played a role in the Apostle Paul’s ministry…I believe there was only two or three names left out.

2Tim 4:9 Make every effort to come to me soon;

/[2Ti 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/10/s_1129010) for **Demas**, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; **Crescens** *has gone* to Galatia, **Titus** to Dalmatia.

3 men all given the same opportunities and we see one (Demas), who ended up in reversionism. Another became a congregation member who sets an example for all Bels, while another became a powerful pastor-teacher.\

Two men who went on to fulfill their true callings inside the plan of GOD.

While Demas never fulfilled his true potential inside the plan of God.

/Demas who is mentioned more than Crescens in NT scripture, lacked the discipline to not be drawn back into cosmic system ideologies. Crescens had the self-discipline to persevere and live his life in the light of eternity. Many Christians are very earthly minded and therefore, when the journey gets mundane or difficult they disappear. The Bel who lives like Crescens, recognize the need for growth and intimacy with the LORD, so they keep pursuing which leads to higher levels of spirituality.\

The body of Christ is made up of many parts just as our human body is.

We all have a free will and we all have areas of weakness and strength, so therefore, equality is nearly impossible.

/Both Demas and Crescens are loved by the LORD and both enter heaven, yet not with equal privileges;

Luk 19:17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave; since you have been faithful in a very little thing, **you are to have authority over ten cities**.'\

One of the key differences between Demas and Crescens is self-discipline, which leads to great perseverance.

Never forget what you do right now in time…is what carries into eternity.

Let us look at some historical names that each took their own time, talent and treasure - and either applied it to their fullest potential, or they peeled away into reversionism.

[/2Ti 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/11/s_1129011) Only **Luke** is with me. Take along **Mark** and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

Dr. Luke was highly educated and a very organized man, he operated as the right -hand man for Paul starting at his 2nd missionary journey. Luke never bucked authority; he knew the office of apostleship was to be fully supported.\

Luke did not compete with the Apostle Paul…he willingly, served under him right up until the Apostle Paul’s death.

Many men find it hard to be in a position of second place. Or to be a leader but still have another man overseeing them.

Luke had no ego problems and he truly fulfilled his spiritual calling at a very high level.

REPEAT

Dr. Luke was responsible for keeping the Apostle Pauls’ ministry organized and moving forward. Even when the Apostle Paul failed and struggled with his own OSN, Luke never stabbed him in the back, he stayed the course.

John Mark was related to a faithful man of GOD, named Barnabas.

Mark was really under the authority of the Apostle Peter first. In fact, Mark’s gospel was written under the Apostle Peter’s authority.

/Mark failed on the Apostle Paul’s first missionary journey; he ran from his duties. Great tension arose between Barnabas and the Apostle Paul over the failure of John Mark. Barnabas continued to support and help Mark (nephew) recover and move on to become a great teacher. Mark pastored a church in Egypt (Alexandria), showing us that restoration and forgiveness is always in the heart of GOD.\

The Apostle Paul had a period of separation with John Mark and we see that no longer existed by the end of Pauls’ life.

Barnabas played a vital role in the early church and in the Apostle Paul’s life.

[/2Ti 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/12/s_1129012) But **I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.**

Tychicus was very reliable to teach, evangelize and carry important letters abroad and complete the journey.\

It is believed that the prison epistles were all delivered by Tychicus and here, he would replace Timothy as the pastor in Ephesus.

Tychicus was a go-to guy that you could always count on to complete a mission.

[/2Ti 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/13/s_1129013) When you come, bring the overcoat which **I left at Troas with Carpus** (*karpos*), and the books, especially the parchments.

His name means FRUITFUL. This was a Greek stronghold, near Troy, that the Romans had planted their flag on. This man would have been a very trustworthy Christian, under the Apostle Paul’s ministry.\

This man like Crescens, is only mentioned one time and yet, he was responsible for holding onto Paul’s notes and documents.

His life was one of manifesting fruit and yet he was never a church leader or even considered a historic Christian figure.

Yet here he is mentioned in the Apostle Pauls’ last roll call. This man was responsible to hold onto some of the apostles’ personal notes and documents.

Just think about that responsibility.

[/2Ti 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/14/s_1129014) **Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm;** the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

This was a reversionistic Bel who constantly attacked the apostles ministries – he had a personal vendetta against Paul (Act 19).\

There are certain times we have to call out, by name - those who are aggressively attacking the truth.

We do so not for revenge, but for the protection of other Believers.

[2Ti 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/15/s_1129015) Be on guard against him yourself too, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.

Never throw names around carelessly, because it becomes a part of the sins of the tongue if you are involved in this.

There are rare times though, that we must protect others and in doing so we must call out who is the enemy.

The Apostle Paul is not calling for revenge he is simply giving a warning.

[/2Ti 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/16/s_1129016) At my first defense no one supported me, but **all deserted me; may it not be counted against them**.

Nero made sure the Apostle Paul stood alone in this judicial process. This was an active and violent time of persecutions against Christians. To come forward would mean that Bel and their family would be executed.\

[2Ti 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/17/s_1129017) 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.

Nero would often use Christians in the arena or as public spectacles to be fed to the lions.

This did not happen, which gave the Apostle Paul extra time to finish a letter to Titus and also write 2Timothy.

[2Ti 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/18/s_1129018) 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.

That was the words of a mature Bel at dying grace.

Chained in a damp and dark prison cell, sick and weak and yet looking for the eternal glory yet to come.

/[2Ti 4:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/19/s_1129019) Greet **Prisca and Aquila**, and the household of **Onesiphorus**.

These were Bels who supported Paul’s ministry from very early on, they were under Timothy’s teaching at Ephesus.\

Priscilla and Aquila were Jewish Bels who followed and supported the Apostle Paul from very early on in his ministry.

The whole family of Onesiphorus were Believed to be very faithful mature Bels as well.

These were mature Bels who supported the truth. They lived a life as the 3rd witness under the angelic conflict – Christian marriage and the Christian family under the second and third Divine Institution as well.

[/2Ti 4:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/20/s_1129020) **Erastus** remained at Corinth, but I left **Trophimus** sick at Miletus.

Erastus was a Roman official who held an office in Corinth (treasurer) – a positive Bel, a convert into Christianity.\

Trophimus travelled with Paul often and was there during Paul’s first prison sentence.

The Apostle Paul had no longer been able to heal. This was a temporary spiritual gift.

Just as prophecy, tongues and several other miraculous gifts given in the early portion of the church of Jesus Christ, were there for foundational purposes only.

[/2Ti 4:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/21/s_1129021) Make every effort to come before winter. **Eubulus** greets you, also **Pudens**, **Linus, Claudia**, and all the brothers *and sisters.*

These are Bels in Rome who stood by Paul. Linus became a pastor in a Roman church. His parents supported Paul, Pudens and Claudia were his parents.\

[2Ti 4:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/22/s_1129022) The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

/Between this section of 2Timothy 4 and a look into Romans 16, we can see many names of congregation members who never made Christian history as leaders or teachers. Yet they all built up the Apostle Paul’s ministry and kept it moving forward. They lived ordinary lives and yet became extraordinary Bels. Many will be in positions of high rank and authority in heaven.\

What most of their lives reflected was a life of self-discipline, loyalty and real perseverance, which is so necessary for the consistent result of spiritual growth.

/The GAP (Grace Apparatus for Perception) operates by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, working with the positive volition of a human spirit, under the right pastor-teacher communicating Bible Doctrine. Any Christian, at any level of intelligence, can take this portion of the grace gift given at salvation and move forward into an extraordinary spiritual life, one that echoes into eternity.\

This is not about emotional waves and religious rituals - this is a deeper relationship with TLJC.

It is a call into academic discipline and it will not happen until the Bel gets the humility and self-discipline to become a real student of the mind of Christ.

REPEAT

/Allowing the distractions of the cosmic system to occupy the bulk of your time can only produce reversionism. Self-discipline counters this tendency and brings the Believer under the academic discipline of the accurate teaching of the WORD where spiritual growth is accomplished. The correct and consistent use of the two power options, manifests GAP within the soul, leading to spiritual growth in time.\

No system of works or human good can cause spiritual growth.

No cosmic system ideology or human IQ, can replace or duplicate the two power options and the function of the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

Spiritual growth occurs in the soul. The soul is the one of the largest battlegrounds of the angelic conflict.

/What causes growth in the soul is knowledge coming from words, but these words have to be truth (BD). Also, this knowledge has to be able to truly find a home in the right lobe. This takes a supernatural power given to all Bels. Accurate BD produces divine concepts which in turn, produce technical words and categories. This is a doctrinal framework of reference that builds in the soul, like a library. This is how Bible doctrine resides in the soul, meaning true knowledge, ready for application (wisdom).\

/Self-discipline is a major part of the spiritual progress of any Believer. You cannot move forward without it, which means free will is the true key to open up to this knowledge. Positive volition and humility combine and then the Bel can organize their life and have self-discipline directed at the Mind of Christ. This takes the ordinary life changing it into an extraordinary Spiritual Life.\

RF, nothing happens overnight – we are not in a 50-meter dash we are on a marathon journey.

This happens one step at a time with an awareness of our own flaws and weaknesses without feeling overwhelmed.

This happens by being in the New Nature more so than the old nature.

Finally getting off the fence about the word of GOD is a necessity.

No Christian grows, or has any serious positive momentum with one foot in the cosmic system and one foot in the plan of GOD.

The choice has always been yours.