

2 Timothy 4:1-8

June 10, 2020

In this passage we have Paul's final spiritual instructions to his young friend Timothy. He fortifies the solemn charge by appeals to God and Christ Jesus (putting His title first), coming to judge the living and the dead.

Every charge that Paul lays on Timothy is given to all believers today. Do people today have itching ears that seek teaching tailored to their emotions? Do they wander off into myths?

And, again, Paul reminds Timothy to follow him as an example. His time for departure has come. William McDonald points out, *The Greek word analysis (lit. "up loosing," whence English "analysis"), which Paul uses here to describe his departure, is a most*

expressive one, giving at least four different word pictures: (1) It was a seaman's word, used of the "unloosing" of a ship from its anchorage. (2) It was a plowman's word, denoting the "unyoking" of a weary team of animals after a hard day. (3) It was a traveler's expression, suggesting the "striking" of a tent, preparatory to setting out on a march. (4) It was a philosopher's term, signifying the "solution" (analysis) of a problem. Here again we see the richness of the imagery used by the great apostle.

We can surely think of brothers and sisters who have made such a "departure." Does the church need Timothys? Can we hope at the end of our race to attain to a departure like Paul's?

Questions for study and discussion:

1. How will (or does) Christ Jesus judge the living and the dead?
2. What is meant by in season and out of season? Do you feel out of season at times?
3. What happens if we reprove and rebuke but without patience?
4. What happens if we are endlessly patient and never rebuke, reprove, or exhort anyone?

5. In Greek times, students would seek out teachers that most appealed to them and join their “schools.” An unpopular teacher would often have to find a different living. Verse 3 speaks of those with itching ears employing teachers who stimulate them in some way. Does this happen among Christians? What is unscriptural about it?
6. Can you think of myths that get in the way of sound Biblical teaching?
7. Does verse 5 mean that Timothy had the spiritual gift of evangelism?
8. See verse 7. How has Paul kept the faith? How can we?
9. When will Paul receive his crown of righteousness? Is it a crown reserved only for apostles like Paul?