



Pastoral Epistles Part 2
Second Timothy Chapter Four

1. Stay at your post!

2 Timothy 4:1, 2

As we have learned in previous lessons, when Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, it was a very difficult season in Timothy's life and ministry.

At the time the first letter was written, the church in Ephesus was growing and thriving. But by the time the second letter was written, the situation had changed dramatically. Nero became the Roman emperor and persecution against Christians skyrocketed.

Many Christians abandoned their Christian faith and returned to pagan gods out of fear. Others died for their faith.

Definition of READY (Greek word – EPHISTIMI):

- This is a compound word made up of EPI and ISTIMI.
- Definition of EPI: _____
- Definition of ISTIMI: _____
- Together the word means: To stand upon; to take a firm stand or a hard position.
- It was a term Paul borrowed from the military which meant – to stay at one's post.

Notice that Paul told him that he was to be faithful to his post "in season and out of season".

Definition of IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON:

- The words IN SEASON come from the Greek word EUKAIROS.
- The words OUT OF SEASON come from the Greek word AKAIROS.

Do you notice how similar these words are to each other?

The word KAIROS is the Greek word for SEASONS or TIMES.

This word can be easily altered by adding different prefixes to it.

For example – when you add EU to the front of it, it becomes EUKAIROS.

The word EU means _____

EUKAIROS means good times, happy times, pleasing times, or pleasurable times.

But you can also change the word KAIROS by adding the prefix A.

AKAIROS means _____

Paul was telling Timothy to be faithful, whether he was having happy times or bad times.

We could read 2 Timothy 4:2 like this – *Take a firm stand and resolve to stay at your post! Regardless of whether times are good or bad, this is your post – your place of responsibility – so dig in, take a firm stand, and resolve that you are going to be faithful!*

This is exactly the word Timothy needed to be encouraged to stand tall, be brave, and remain faithful to his assignment.

When you are going through a difficult season it is not a time for you to abandon your post or to look for someone else to take your place.

If God called you to that post, it is time for you to dig in, take a firm stand, and resolve that you are going to be faithful whether times are good or bad.

When we go through a difficult season (sickness, financial lack, any kind of opposition) – many times we focus our prayers and faith in that area.

There is nothing wrong with that. However, we must realize that we cannot forsake our post.

Staying faithful at your post is _____

Sometimes people go through trials. They go to their pastors and say things like – “I need some time away from the ministry.” “I can’t tithe for right now.” “I won’t be in church for a while.” This is leaving your post. If you are going through a “bad season” you must pray, stand in faith, speak the Word and stay at your post.

Our post has to do with the work of the Gospel and specifically our relationships with others.

Timothy poured his life into a group of leaders in Ephesus for three years.

He spent time with them, loved them, cared for them, taught them, forgave them, and literally poured his heart and soul into their lives.

What did Timothy expect in return? – _____

What happened to most of those men? – They walked out of the church and deserted Timothy (during this time of persecution). Timothy lost most of his leadership.

What did Paul tell him to do about it?

2 Timothy 2:2

These were heavy instructions for Paul to give to Timothy.

Timothy had already been “burned” once. Now he had to start all over again!

Timothy may have thought, “Forget it! I have already been through this pain once, and I do not like the idea of going through it again.”

2 Timothy 2:2

As we saw in our study of chapter two, Paul was telling Timothy, “You need to choose some new people who have proven themselves faithful. Pull alongside those people; get as close to them as you can so you can deposit everything you are and everything you know into them.”

What does this have to do with you staying at your post and seeing the new season of your life come? – Timothy’s future depended on how well he was able to receive from others and pour into others.

The same is true with your future. Do not abandon your post and go into hiding just because you are going through a difficult time.

Who are you receiving from and who are you pouring your life into?

Sometimes we get so caught up in our own storm that we unintentionally abandon our post and forget about pouring into others.

But your post (your ministry) is a vital part of your victory!

2. Challenges in the last days

2 Timothy 4:3, 4

Right after Paul tells Timothy to stay at his post, he describes unique challenges that the church will have in the last days.

The first thing we see is that they will not endure sound doctrine.

In the Greek, the word “they” implies large numbers of people.

Definition of NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE: To have no ability to put up with or have no tolerance for and have a distaste for sound doctrine.

Paul is saying that a generation will arise in the last days that will reject age tested truth in favor of teaching what is more in step with the times. The teaching from people like this will appeal to people’s emotions and intellect instead of their spirit, where actual transformation takes place. They will speak what crowds want to hear, and they will enjoy the popularity that they received from this

Definition of ITCHING EARS: _____

Definition of FABLES: Fantasies

Specifically, this is speaking about Bible teachers substituting the teaching of repentance from sin and a change in behavior with fables that teach something different.

3. Instructions to Pastor Timothy

2 Timothy 4:5

Paul gave instructions to Timothy. These are also instructions to pastors today.

- Be watchful in all things
- _____
- Do the work of an evangelist
- _____

4. Paul finished his race.

2 Timothy 4:6, 7

- Fought the good fight

Definition of FOUGHT and FIGHT:

- A struggle

- _____

- Combat

- _____

The Greek word is AGONIDZO which is where we get the English word “agony”.

Paul was saying that his ministry has been a real struggle, difficult, fierce, and agonizing. However, he stayed in the fight and was faithful.

The verse could be translated this way – *A good fight, that is what I fought.*

Paul’s ministry may have been difficult, but he made it!

1 Corinthians 9:24

Paul was completely focused on finishing his assignment

- Finished the race

A better translation of the word “race” is “course”. Paul finished his course, but the race is not finished.

Hebrews 12:1

Paul’s course was to bring the revelation of “Christ in you” to the world and complete the writing of the New Testament.

He is now in that great cloud of witnesses cheering us on as we run our course.

- Kept the faith

This means that Paul held firmly to his faith.

5. Paul’s final words and instructions to Timothy

2 Timothy 4:8-10

Paul saw several people fall away from the faith and their ministry during his life. One example was Demas, who was a beloved and respected leader in the early church.

He was mentioned along with Luke in Colossians.

Colossians 4:14

We discover in this epistle that Demus forsook the Apostle Paul and abandoned the faith. He escaped into the world, to spare himself from possible persecution.

2 Timothy 4:11

Mark, who Paul mentions here is the same as John Mark who Paul earlier refused to take on a missionary journey. However, by the time of his last epistle, Paul wanted to use him again in the ministry.

2 Timothy 4:12

Before Paul sent this letter to Timothy, Tychicus was sent to Ephesus. Paul wanted John Mark to come and help him in the ministry, apparently because he missed having Tychicus with him.

We know that Tychicus had been one of Paul's trusted companions. He was with Paul on his third missionary journey and had been directed by Paul to go to Ephesus during Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Ephesians 6:21

Tychicus is called a beloved brother and faithful minister.

Colossians 4:7

It is also a possibility that Tychicus delivered the letter of First Timothy to Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:13

Winter was coming and Paul needed the cloak for his time in the damp and cold prison.

This cloak was left with a friend of the Apostle Paul named Carpus. Paul was probably in Troas during the summer and did not want to travel with his cloak. Therefore, he left it with his friend.

It is impossible to know exactly what the books and parchments were. However, we can tell from this request that Paul, even though his death was close, was always studying and learning.

2 Timothy 4:14, 15

This is the same person Paul spoke of in 1 Timothy 1:20.

1 Timothy 1:19, 20

Alexander was one of the false teachers who stood against the message of the Gospel.

Paul was not treating him as a personal enemy and hoping for revenge. Alexander was an enemy of the Gospel.

2 Timothy 4:16

Paul is referring to the time he went before the Roman court. In that moment, he needed his friends to testify in his defense. Every single friend had abandoned him.

Definition of FORSOOK:

- Walking out on someone
- Leaving someone in a terrible condition
- _____

Paul is encouraging Timothy. Timothy's leaders had also abandoned him. He is being relatable and encouraging him to stand strong.

2 Timothy 4:17

There are incredible promises in this verse for those who are preaching the Gospel under the threat of persecution and death.

Definition of STOOD WITH ME:

- _____
- To give assistance and support in a time of distress

Definition of STRENGTHENED ME:

- _____
- To endue with strength
- To empower or to fill with power

2 Timothy 4:18, 19

Prisca is Priscilla.

2 Timothy 4:20-22