
For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come." (2 Timothy 4:6)

I. Last Words

- a. A person's last words help us to look into their heart or it serves as a measure that helps us evaluate their life. This final chapter is Paul's last words to Timothy and the church.
- b. It would do us all well to occasionally reflect on the fact that one day we will face God and our works will be judged.
- c. Paul wanted Timothy to realize the seriousness of the moment. I charge you [as a witness]..."Preach the Word."
 1. Preaching the Word is the main responsibility of the minister, everything else is secondary. The preacher serves as God's messenger with a proclamation that is to be heard and heeded.
 2. Nothing can or should take the place of effective preaching in our churches.
 3. The Word of God is "good medicine" for the sinner and the saint, because it saves and it heals. All of us need to be on a continuous I.V. drip of God's Word.
- d. God has designed and crafted His Word to be applicable to every season and situation. (v. 2)
 1. We all should be alert to use every opportunity to preach (proclaim) the Word, when it is favorable and not favorable.
 2. Paul preached on stormy seas, in prison, in private homes, lakesides and in the temple courts. (Eccl 11:4) Preaching should be marked by three elements: conviction, warning, and appeal.
 3. True preaching is the explanation and application of Bible doctrine. Anything else is just religious speechmaking.
- e. "Itching ears" presents the idea of those who want to be comforted, but not changed. Some want to be told "be careful where you walk" instead of "pick up your cross and follow Christ."
- f. *Fulfill your ministry* (v.5) (be, know and do)

II. A Life Lived Well (v.6)

- a. Many times in his letters, Paul declared that he was not perfect, yet he lived life well.
- b. *I am being poured out as a drink offering and my departure has come.* Read Phil. 2:7-8 for insight to the meaning of this *offering*. Paul lived his life as an offering.
- c. *Departure* has several meanings: *to hoist an anchor and set sail; to take down a tent; and releasing a prisoner.*
- d. Paul looked back: *he fought the good fight; he finished the race and kept the faith.*
- e. He looked ahead: laid up for me there is a crown of righteousness.
- f. Paul expressed no regrets as he came to the end. He even forgave those who made his life difficult (v.16).
- g. More than seventeen people are referred to in this chapter, which shows that Paul was a *friend-maker* as well as a *soul-maker*. (Also, Romans 16:3-16)
- h. Paul ensured that future generations may hear the Gospel and have an opportunity to be saved.
- i. How do you know that you lived life well? Is it based on money, status, or material belongings?

III. Personal Application

- a. There have been many sermons preached entitled "Living Between the Dash."
- b. Have you given thought to what you would say to your loved ones in your last days?
- c. How do you want others to remember about your life? Understand this, we are best remembered not by *what* we leave behind, but *what* we leave in *who* we leave behind.
- d. Did my life make a difference *in* those around me? Was I a catalyst for Christ in my life time?