

**PAUL'S GETHSEMANE!**  
**2 TIMOTHY CH4:14-22**

***“We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God” John Stott.***

**Remember** we talked about the “context” meaning the circumstances that formed the setting, where we ask the “What, Who, Where, Why, When and How.” In order to help us, we will continue to go over every week the following:

The key to understanding 2 Timothy lies in recognizing Paul’s altered circumstances. He is no longer free to pursue his task of proclaiming the gospel to the gentiles. Arrested (probably in Troas Ch4:13) and now a prisoner in Rome (Ch1:16-17; 2;9). Having already undergone a preliminary hearing (Ch4:16-18) and awaiting his final trial, from which he has little hope of anything except death (Ch4:6-8). Some have ministered to his needs (Ch1:16-18), others have gone out on ministries (Ch4:10,12) and at least one has abandoned him (Ch4:10). Meanwhile the situation in Ephesus has worsened with some deserting the gospel (Ch1:15) and despite his previous excommunication (1 Timothy Ch1:20) of Hymenaeus, he is still at work overthrowing the faith of many (Ch2:17-18). In the midst of these circumstances Paul sends his second letter to Timothy.

Timothy meanwhile is facing pressures from within the church Ch1:8 – distance and shame of the Gospel and its servants, Ch1:15 – desertion, Ch2:17-18 - wandering from the truth, Ch3:8 – men who are opposing the truth.

Running alongside this, Timothy is facing pressures from outside the church – Ch3:11-12 + Ch4:14-15 in the form of persecution. It is these circumstances that form the setting for Timothy, and because of these circumstances, he may not complete what God has asked him to do (Ch4:5)!

**ILLUSTRATION**

*The miracle on the Hudson. On Jan 15 2009, the Airbus A320, hit a flock of geese as they took off and lost both engines. Captain Chesley Sullenberger quickly realised they were too low to make the nearest airport so casually announced to air traffic control, “We’re gonna be in the Hudson.” Guiding the aircraft to land on the Hudson River, ‘Sully’ managed to land it and save everyone on board, 150 passengers and crew. It was called **“The most successful ditching in aviation history!”***

Sully, knowing his abilities, his environment, the real problem with the plane and his mission, stayed calm and executed a first class crash landing! Every one of the 150 passengers was saved!

The apostle Paul, whilst facing his Gethsemane, knowing his abilities, his environment, the real problem of desertion and opposition, executes his final mission, perfectly!

**THE LORD WILL REPAY! - V14-V15**

- Verses 14 -15 are packed with a warning, fierce opposition as Alexander “the metal worker” causes Paul pain, as he “did me a great deal of harm” meaning that Alexander “did/showed many evil things against me!”

- **HARM – V14** is a legal term meaning “**informed against**” The evil against Paul is further explained in v15 - “**he strongly opposed our message**”
- Was it through Alexander that Paul was re-arrested?
- Alexander who? **Acts 19:33-34? 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:20** being temporarily excommunicated with Hymenaeus, is it the same guy? Either way whoever the “Alexander” is, he caused Paul a great deal of harm!
- V15 - Timothy is cautioned/warned, to “be on your guard” - meaning “**to be constantly on watch against him**”
- Is Alexander connected with Troas, hence the warning here?
- Paul leaves it in the hands of the Lord!

### **THE LORD STOOD AT MY SIDE! - V16-V18**

- Paul's first courtroom defence! A **prima actio** – a preliminary investigation preceding the formal trial.
- But no-one came to his support! All that could have come, did not!
- Remind us of anyone? Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane! Mark Ch14:50 – “Then everyone deserted Him and fled.”
- Like his Master before him, he had to face his ordeal alone!
- We are not sure about the charges, but the Lord stood by him and gave him strength. Christ's presence strengthened him, so that he could preach!
- What a brilliant example “Preach the Word” be prepared in season and out of season! What happens through the strengthening of Christ? In that “strengthening” the message of the Gospel is fully proclaimed and the gentiles hear, and Paul is delivered! Paul in grave personal danger is more concerned about preaching Christ, than his own personal safety!
- Is the lion “Nero”? When Emperor Tiberius died in AD 37 news of his death reached Herod Agrippa in the cryptic form of “the Lion is dead.”
- Is it Satan (1<sup>st</sup> Peter Ch5:8), who prowls like a roaring lion?
- Is it a reference to Scripture? “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Ch17:37). In Daniel Ch6:20 – Daniel is rescued from the Den of Lions! So, is it being rescued from extreme danger? **DELIVERED FROM DEATH!**
- Is it Psalm 22, the Psalm quoted by Jesus on the cross (Matt Ch27:46) “Rescue me from the mouth of the Lions, save me from the horns of the wild oxen”?
- The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack, even if it results in my earthly death! I'm still rescued! v18
- Paul reminds Timothy that opposition and desertion are a constant reality in every Church in every generation! If Timothy stays friends with Paul he will find himself on occasion deserted by his Christian friends and opposed by his Christian ex-friends!

### **THE LORD BE WITH YOU! V19-V22**

- Greetings matter! Relationships are important to Christians, especially!
- Mutual encouragement, prayers, practical support, family!
- Paul wanting God to stand with Timothy. Paul wishes that “**The Lord**” is with Timothy, as he was “always” so evidently with Paul!
- The “you” is plural, wanting the whole Church to be read the letter
- Inviting the Church to understand pressures that leaders face!

- Priscilla and Aquila – Acts Ch18:1-3, Ch18:18-26; Romans Ch16:3-4 (**they risked their lives for me!**); 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Ch16:19
- Onesiphorus 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Ch1:16-18 (**Probably dead!**) + here
- Erastus Acts Ch19:22 (**An old friend of Timothy's, they had done mission together**); Romans Ch16:23 (**City's director of works!**)
- Trophimus Acts Ch20:4, Ch21:29 (**From Ephesus and currently sick through being missional!**)
- Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, + Claudia not mentioned anywhere else
- Brothers in Rome!
- **Grace be with you - Charis** is a lovely word; the basic ideas in it **are joy and pleasure, brightness and beauty**; it is, in fact, connected with the English word **charm**. But with Jesus Christ there comes a new beauty to add to the beauty that was there. And that beauty **is born of a new relationship to God**. With Christ life becomes lovely because man is no longer the victim of God's law but the child of His love!

### **APPLICATION**

Paul finishes the race!

Paul urges Timothy to finish the race!

We are then urged to finish the race!