

sermon discussion/exercise guide

Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸**The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

1. How does the way we view and handle *our past experiences* affect and shape our current perception of, belief in, and following of God?
2. Make a list. Carefully comb the preceding text for every matter you perceive could be used as *a tool or weapon* in an attack on Paul by his enemy, Satan?
3. Specifically - from what we can read in this text - *how did Paul handle* these attacks by Satan? That is, what mindset(s) or action(s) did he take to deflect and/or defeat the enemy? What does that say to *us/you* today?
4. What does this text say of assurance, confidence, faith, and trust?
5. How does this text address boldness, courage, grit, and guts?
6. How does the opening phrase of 2 Tim. 4.18 *echo* Matthew 6.13?
7. *Discuss.* "Since we know God, sincerely and consistently seeking him and serving him, whether it costs us great trouble, pain, loss, or even our very life, the Lord *will indeed rescue us.*"
8. Recite aloud what is in **bold** above *from memory* 3x daily this week.