



Sunday, August 11, 2019
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Intro to 2 Timothy 4:9-22

Jesus promised us that “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” (John 15:20). This is, at the same time, a comfort and a challenge. The challenge is obvious: If you’re a Christian, persecution is a guarantee. We must learn that we will have opponents who oppose us because they don’t like the message we present. There will be people who oppose us because of our way of life. And there will be people who oppose us for seemingly no reason at all. Jesus never sinned against anyone, and yet we hated Him enough to kill Him.

At the same time, this message is a comfort: If we face persecution for being Christians, we can be confident that we’re walking in the footsteps of our Master, Jesus. Then, in the truest sense of the word, we will be comforted—endowed with strength—to face the trials that come our way. Unfortunately, too many of us follow the world in response to opposition—self-righteous indignation, sharp retorts, gossip, and quiet brooding. Instead, Jesus gives us the image of the sheep who was silent before its shearers and the apostle Paul gives us the example of one who suffered unjustly but was still given the greatest reward (2 Tim. 4:8).

Context

This passage comes as something of an epilogue to the letter of 2 Timothy. The main body of the letter ends at 4:8. However, the life situation that Paul reveals in these remaining verses gives us significant context to his admonitions to Timothy to guard the good deposit and endure suffering. It is entirely reasonable to think that Paul was simply sharing with Timothy what God was teaching him in the waning moments of his time on earth. So, even in this section filled with names and details that are foreign to us in both time and culture, we can find important elements of discipleship that are applicable to us today.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22

“Forgiveness”

Key Ideas

1. In this world, Christians, even those we look up to, will face opposition.
2. The Lord is the Judge who will repay evil.
3. We are to have a spirit of forgiveness—to overcome evil with good.
4. Culturally, we prefer being the victim.
5. Forgiveness involves self-denial.
6. Stability in the Christian life is incumbent on you knowing God is with you.
7. The outcome of knowing that God is with us is strength.
8. Seek out friends who encourage you, stick with them, and be an encouragement to them.
9. The greatest thing we can know is that God is present with us.

Discuss

- 1) Which of these words best describe the way you view people who oppose you: anger or compassion? Why?
- 2) Is there someone in your life right now that you are struggling to forgive? Why do you think that is?
- 3) Read Romans 12:17-21. How closely does that resemble the way you think about and live your life?
- 4) How do you know that God is with you? Can you think of a scenario where God would not be with you?
- 5) What does it mean to be a friend who encourages?