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Introduction: These final sentiments in 2 Timothy, while quite personal, present a good example for all Christians to shoot for. Paul, while never doubting that the Lord was able to deliver him out of his troubles, is aware that he is near the end of his life on Earth. And he is able to say that he has run his course properly, he has used his life to serve the Lord Jesus, and he knows something far, far better awaits him. Oh, that we all would get to our earthly end and be able to say the same. Paul's life was devoted to selfless service. We should ascribe to the same.

There is also a list of people mentioned by name. Some are in a negative light, others positive. Paul had faithful friends, and he also had strong opposition. This is true with us as well. It is important that we keep our eyes on the Lord and serve faithfully to the end as Paul did. As long as we are here, even if we are facing our end, this life belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Verses 6-8 - An earthly end gives way to a glorious hope and future.

- v.6 - Here Paul speaks of his imminent death.

- v.7 - Three statements every Christian should be able to say at their end. Strive for it now. The **good fight** was how Paul characterized his life of ministry. Preaching the Gospel in a lost, sin-hardened world is a fight. Finishing **the race** and keeping **the faith** speak of the intensity of the work and the enduring spirit needed to stay at it.

- v.8 - Paul wrote previously of keeping one's affections on things above (Colossians 3:2). Here, Paul looks ahead with confidence and gladness at his reward for faithful service. The **crown of righteousness** comes from the **righteous Judge**... Paul endured much hardship, but all would be made **right**. The Christian does not live for here and now. He lives with his future in mind. **...that Day** refers to **His appearing**; that is, His second coming.

2. Verses 9-22 - Various relationships, and a faithful God.

- v.9 - Whereas Paul commanded Timothy to stay where he was in 1 Timothy, here Paul calls for Timothy to **come. ...quickly** does not seem to be a reference to an immediate departure; rather there was more teaching and ministry for Timothy to accomplish, but then he was to come soon (v.21)

- vv.10-11a - **Demas** is mentioned in Colossians (and the companion letter to Philemon) as one of Paul's close associates. He apparently gave in to the pressure to give up, the very pressure Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to encourage him to resist. Paul says Demas **loved this present world...** The lure of the world should not be taken lightly. The defection seems only to apply to Demas, not **Crescens** or **Titus**. But the latter were gone, and Paul was alone, save **Luke**.

- v.11b - That **Mark** is requested by Paul indicates there was some reconciliation following the early dispute with Barnabas. God can restore relationships among brethren and make us **useful!**

- v.12 - Since Timothy is in **Ephesus**, it is possible **Tychicus** is the deliverer of this letter.

- v.13 - That Paul requested **books** and **parchments** indicated that he still planned to read and write. To the end, he was still pursuing his own growth and fruitfulness.

- vv.14-15 - **Alexander the coppersmith** may be the same Alexander whom Paul had delivered to Satan in 1 Timothy 1:20, or he may be the Jewish man of Acts 19:33 who had been put forward to speak at the Ephesus riot. All three references may refer to the same man, or they may be three different men. It is impossible to say for sure. However, Timothy was to be on guard against this dangerous opponent. We must be on guard against opponents of the Gospel as well, and seek the Lord's protection and wisdom. Paul calling upon the Lord to **repay** Alexander may be with Psalm 62:12 in mind.

- vv.16-18 - Things had gotten seemingly so bad that Paul had **stood** alone at his first trial (not one recorded in Acts, but one related to the present imprisonment). Paul calls for mercy for his brethren. He also boldly asserts that **the Lord stood** with him, enabling him to apparently preach the Gospel even while on trial! Deliverance **out of the mouth of the lion** might be a reference to Roman persecution of Christians. Whether alive or dead (in earthly terms), Paul was assured of God's deliverance.

- vv.19-22 - Close friends and associates are mentioned in closing greetings before Paul blesses Timothy one last time. Thus his writing ministry ends.