

1-2 TIMOTHY



1 TIMOTHY

Read 1 Timothy 1

Paul, with pastoral concern, cautions Timothy to be particularly aware of false teachers and urges him to focus on accuracy when teaching doctrine. Paul expresses his gratitude for the mercy God has shown him.

Reflect: Paul acknowledges that he is a sinner. I too am a sinner. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Just as Paul was mercifully treated, so too I have been mercifully treated.

Pray: Lord God, grant that the Holy Spirit may fill me with wisdom, that my heart and mind may be open to learning about my faith. Give me the grace to express my gratitude for your mercy by reaching out to others.

Act: With good conscience and sincerity make an effort to share your faith with someone else today.

Salutation

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,
2 To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Warning against False Teachers

3 I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴ and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training^a that is known by faith. ⁵ But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. ⁶ Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.

8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately. ⁹ This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, ¹⁰ fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the

^a Or plan

sound teaching ¹¹ that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

Gratitude for Mercy

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I re-

ceived mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.^a Amen.

18 I am giving you these instructions, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have suffered shipwreck in the faith; ²⁰ among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have turned over to Satan, so that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Read 1 Timothy 2

Prayers and petitions are to be offered for everyone, and are to conclude by invoking the intercession of Jesus Christ, the mediator between God and humanity.

Reflect: Is it not much easier to pray for those with whom we relate well than for those who may not agree with our way of life? A point made in this passage is no one is to be excluded from our prayer.

Pray: Almighty Father, you sent your only Son to walk with all of us. We are to recognize Christ in each other. Please help me, that I may always show respect to every one of my fellow human beings.

Act: Make prayer, whether formal or informal, a part of your daily routine. God loves you and loves to hear from you.

Instructions concerning Prayer

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth,^b I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ I desire, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument; ⁹ also that the women should dress themselves modestly and decently in suitable clothing, not with their hair braided, or with gold, pearls, or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good works, as is proper for women who profess reverence for God. ¹¹ Let a woman^c learn in silence with full submission. ¹² I permit no woman^c to teach or to have authority over a man;^d she is to keep silent. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing, provided they continue in faith and love and holiness, with modesty.

^a Gk to the ages of the ages

^b Other ancient authorities add in Christ

^c Or wife

^d Or her husband

Read 1 Timothy 3–4

Paul offers practical counsel to Timothy and urges him to be a good minister of Christ.

Reflect: Living by faith requires a commitment exemplifying Christian values through the respect and love with which we treat each other.

Pray: I will ask for the perseverance to maintain my devotion to the living God in every one of my thoughts, words, and deeds.

Act: Each of us has been gifted with a special talent and possesses attributes that no one else has. Whatever your talent is, carry it out with confidence and thanks to Almighty God.

Qualifications of Bishops

3 The saying is sure:^a whoever aspires to the office of bishop^b desires a noble task. ² Now a bishop^c must be above reproach, married only once,^d temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way—⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

Qualifications of Deacons

8 Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; ⁹ they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ Women^e likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be married only once,^f and let them manage their children and their households well; ¹³ for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Mystery of Our Religion

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. ¹⁶ Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He^g was revealed in flesh,
vindicated^h in spirit,ⁱ
seen by angels,
proclaimed among Gentiles,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.

False Asceticism

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later^j times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. ³ They forbid marriage and demand abstinence

^a Some interpreters place these words at the end of the previous paragraph. Other ancient authorities read *The saying is commonly accepted*

^b Or overseer

^c Or an overseer

^d Gk *the husband of one wife*

^e Or *Their wives*, or *Women deacons*

^f Gk *be husbands of one wife*

^g Gk *Who*; other ancient authorities read *God*; others, *Which*

^h Or *justified*

ⁱ Or *by the Spirit*

^j Or *the last*

from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

A Good Minister of Jesus Christ

⁶If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters,^a you will be a good servant^b of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself in godliness, ⁸for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹The saying is sure and worthy of

full acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end we toil and struggle,^c because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹These are the things you must insist on and teach. ¹²Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture,^d to exhorting, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.^e ¹⁵Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Read 1 Timothy 5

Paul opened this letter by addressing Timothy as "my loyal child in faith." In this and in the subsequent chapter, Paul lists some fatherly rules for Timothy's guidance.

Reflect: Communal rules are meant to help the community function as a family. Does your parish function as a parish family or is there little contact outside of church services?

Pray: May a spirit of caring and sharing bring our community closer together for the honor and glory of God.

Act: Contribute to a ministry in your parish by offering to volunteer your time or your talent.

Duties toward Believers

5 Do not speak harshly to an older man,^f but speak to him as to a father, to younger men as brothers, ²to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters—with absolute purity.

³Honor widows who are really widows. ⁴If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn their religious duty to their own family and make some repayment to their parents; for this is pleasing in God's sight. ⁵The real widow, left alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day; ⁶but the widow^g who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷Give these commands as well, so that they may be above reproach. ⁸And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹Let a widow be put on the list if she is not less than sixty years old and has been married only once;^h ¹⁰she must be well attested for her good works, as one who has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the saints' feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to doing good in every way. ¹¹But refuse to put younger widows on the list; for when their sensual desires alienate them from Christ, they want to marry, ¹²and so they incur condemnation for having violated their first pledge. ¹³Besides that, they learn to be idle, gadding about from house to house; and they are not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they

^a Gk *brothers*

^b Or *deacon*

^c Other ancient authorities read *suffer reproach*

^d Gk *to the reading*

^e Gk *by the presbyter*

^f Or *an elder, or a presbyter*

^g Gk *she*

^h Gk *the wife of one husband*

should not say. ¹⁴ So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, and manage their households, so as to give the adversary no occasion to revile us. ¹⁵ For some have already turned away to follow Satan. ¹⁶ If any believing woman^a has relatives who are really widows, let her assist them; let the church not be burdened, so that it can assist those who are real widows.

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor,^b especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; ¹⁸ for the scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves to be paid.” ¹⁹ Never accept any accusation against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who

persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest also may stand in fear. ²¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels, I warn you to keep these instructions without prejudice, doing nothing on the basis of partiality. ²² Do not ordain^c anyone hastily, and do not participate in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

²³ No longer drink only water, but take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

²⁴ The sins of some people are conspicuous and precede them to judgment, while the sins of others follow them there. ²⁵ So also good works are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden.

Read 1 Timothy 6

Paul’s final admonition to Timothy is to beware of those who do not agree with the sound words of Our Lord Jesus Christ and those who use religion as a means of material gain. He exhorts Timothy to avoid all this and to live as a “man of God.”

Reflect: Paul urges Timothy to “pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.” In what ways do I do this in my own life?

Pray: O Lord, help me to be generous and always ready to share.

Act: Resolve to perform one action today that gives clear witness to your faith.

6 Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be blasphemed. ² Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful to them on the ground that they are members of the church;^d rather they must serve them all the more, since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved.^e

False Teaching and True Riches

Teach and urge these duties. ³ Whoever teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, ⁴ is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words. From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, ⁵ and wrangling among those who are deprived in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.^f ⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that^g we can take nothing out of it; ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

^a Other ancient authorities read *believing man or woman*; others, *believing man*

^b Or *compensation*

^c Gk *Do not lay hands on*

^d Gk *are brothers*

^e Or *since they are believers and beloved, who devote themselves to good deeds*

^f Other ancient authorities add *Withdraw yourself from such people*

^g Other ancient authorities read *world—it is certain that*

The Good Fight of Faith

11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made^a the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to

him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Personal Instructions and Benediction

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; ²¹ by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith.

Grace be with you.^b

^a Gk *confessed*

^b The Greek word for *you* here is plural; in other ancient authorities it is singular. Other ancient authorities add *Amen*

2 TIMOTHY

Read 2 Timothy 1

This letter from Paul contains numerous expressions of his affection and admiration for Timothy. Paul also tells Timothy that he will need to have strong faith in preparation for the hardships he will endure for the gospel.

Reflect: There will be times of abandonment by fellow humans, and such experiences may threaten our faith and trust. As Paul explains to Timothy, we need to remember that God's own design is at work in us and we have the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

Pray: Lord, in your gentle mercy, grant that the spirit of love and understanding may enable me to grow in spirituality and live a holy life.

Act: Many Catholics refrain from becoming involved in moral issues relating to church teachings. In fact, there is a tendency to desert those who visually or verbally support church doctrine. Each of us is church, and Christ is counting on each of us to fulfill our part of the church's mission.

Salutation

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

3 I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

8 Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher,^a ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.^b ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

15 You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain; ¹⁷ when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly^c searched for me and found me

^a Other ancient authorities add *of the Gentiles*

^b Or *what has been entrusted to me*

^c Or *promptly*

18—may the Lord grant that he will find you know very well how much service he rendered in Ephesus. And you

Read 2 Timothy 2

After reading this passage, take a few moments to focus on your baptismal vows and the actual incorporation of your life into the mystical body of Christ.

Reflect: Even though, through baptism, our spiritual structure is strengthened, our human inclination is constantly tested by the powers of evil. How do you maintain your spiritual strength?

Pray: Through the help of God's grace, may my path lead to a morally good life.

Act: Placing our lives in the hands of God requires ongoing commitment and includes a dedication to being faithful in return to God's never-ending faithfulness to us. After the fall of Adam and Eve, we were not abandoned by God. Do we treat others as mercifully as God treats us?

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

2 You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; ² and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. ³ Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. ⁵ And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. ⁶ It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

- If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
- ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
- if we deny him, he will also deny us;
- ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

A Worker Approved by God

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before God^a that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some. ¹⁹ But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness."

²⁰ In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. ²¹ All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned^b will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the

^a Other ancient authorities read *the Lord*

^b *Gk of these things*

house, ready for every good work. ²² Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant^a must

not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, ²⁵ correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, ²⁶ and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.^b

Read 2 Timothy 3

Paul continues to warn about false gods, the corruption of individuals, and self-destruction through the forces of evil.

Reflect: Can you identify some self-centered attitudes that have been detrimental to individuals in our own day?

Pray: Lord, grant me wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Act: Living the word and growing in spirituality are as challenging today as they were during the time of Paul and Timothy. You will be tested, but you will find the strength you need in what you have learned and believe.

Godlessness in the Last Days

3 You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. ² For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them! ⁶ For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate silly women, overwhelmed by their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires, ⁷ who are always being instructed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people, of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith, also oppose the truth. ⁹ But they will not make much progress, because, as in the case of those two men,^c their folly will become plain to everyone.

Paul's Charge to Timothy

¹⁰ Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is^d useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² pro-

^a Gk slave

^b Or by him, to do his (that is, God's) will

^c Gk lacks two men

^d Or Every scripture inspired by God is also

Read 2 Timothy 4

Paul realizes his time is limited, yet he continues teaching and urges Timothy to be persistent in spreading the word. In short, Paul tells Timothy, “Be like me.” It is time to hand over the reins.

Reflect: Our church, because it is alive, will always experience change. For some this is difficult; for others it isn’t. How do I feel about change?

Pray: Grant, O Lord, that how I think, what I do, and what I say may always be for your honor and glory. May all my actions reflect your light in my life.

Act: Scripture reminds us that there is only one just judge. Some may refuse the word. Do not be tempted to judge them but rather pray that their hearts will be open to receive God’s graces.

claim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Personal Instructions

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰ for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia,^a Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹² I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the copper-smith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings and Benediction

¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained in Corinth; Trophimus I left ill in Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.^b

²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.^c

^a Other ancient authorities read *Gaul*

^b Gk *all the brothers*

^c The Greek word for *you* here is plural. Other ancient authorities add *Amen*