

1 Timothy

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the arrangement of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, our hope, 2 to Timothy my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 This is why, when I was going into Macedonia, that I urged you to remain in Ephesus, so that you might warn certain ones not to teach other doctrines, 4 nor to give heed to myths and endless genealogies which bring meaningless controversies, rather than the stewardship of God, which is inside of faith. 5 For the goal of our instruction is love out of a pure heart, out of a good consciousness, and out of a faith that is not fake, 6 from which some, having missed the point, have turned away to meaningless talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, but not understanding what they are saying nor anything concerning what they so confidently assert.

8 We are aware, now, that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully. 9 We know that law is not enacted for the just, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the disrespectful and sinful, for the unholy and false intruders, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for the sexually immoral, homosexuals, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and anything else to which healthy teaching is opposed, 11 according to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. [a]

a. Paul is referencing his earlier statement that the law is what exposes sin, making it exceedingly sinful. For that reason, we see this list as the many ways by which the law shows humans how lost they are. This knowledge of lostness – silent, guilty, and executed – then, is the entrance into Christ, as Paul lays out in Romans 3.

12 I am thankful for the One having empowered me, Christ Jesus our Lord, that He considered me faithful, having placed and set me forth into service, 13 though I was once a slanderer, a persecutor, and violent; but, I was given mercy, because I was ignorant and did all that in unbelief. 14 Abundantly multiplied, then, was the grace of our Lord to me, with the faith and love that are inside of Christ Jesus. 15 This saying is trustworthy and worthy of all acceptance, that “Christ Jesus came into the world to actively save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” 16 But through this I was given mercy, that in me, the worst, Jesus Christ might make fully evident His complete longsuffering as an example for those about to believe upon Him into age-unfolding life. 17 Now to the King of the ages, invisible and unable to decay, to God alone be honor and glory into the seasons of the ages. Let it be so – it is so.

18 This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the guiding prophecies upon you, that you might fight the good warfare by them, 19 possessing faith and a good consciousness, which some, having refused concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have given over to Satan that they might learn not to speak accusation. [b]

b. This is a difficult thing, but speaking accusation cannot be in our mouths, neither can we continue with those who will not stop accusing others.

2:1 I encourage, therefore, first of all, that you make entreaties, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for the sake of all men and women, 2 for kings and all those being in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and respect. [c] 3 This is good and acceptable in the presence of our Savior, God, 4 who wills all mankind to be saved, and to come into the acknowledgement of the truth, that is, truth [Jesus] as personal to them. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man, Christ Jesus, 6 the One who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony coming to each in their own right time, 7 in regard to which I was set forth as a herald and an apostle (I am speaking the truth, I do not lie) a teacher of the ethnic peoples inside of faith and truth.

c. The prayer is not “for” human power, but for the chance to live our lives in peace and freedom.

8 I desire, therefore, the men to pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, separate from opposing anger and argument. 9 Likewise, also women should wear respectable clothing, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothing. 10 But with what is suitable for women proclaiming the reverence of God through good works. 11 Let a woman learn in quietness and in all submissiveness. 12 I do not entrust a woman to teach or to govern a man, but to be in quietness, [d] 13 for Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived [e], but the woman, having been deceived [f] { }, went contrary. 15 Mothers will be helped in childbearing, however, if they abide inside of faith and love and holiness, with self-restraint.

d. We can draw truth from this passage, nonetheless it speaks against everything Paul taught elsewhere regarding our full inclusion together inside of Christ where there is no distinction of male and female. Remember, Paul warned is that if he himself did not understand his gospel, that we should disregard his ideas.

e. he understood fully everything at stake and made his decision coldly

f. believing the serpent’s words were from God, as well she should have been able to do

3:1 It is a trustworthy saying, that if anyone aspires to watchcare, [g] he is desirous of a good work. 2 It is necessary, then, that the watch-carer be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to wine, not a brawler, but gentle and peaceable, not loving money, 4 managing his own household well, having children in submission with all respect. 5 For if one does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for the Church of God? 6 He should not be a novice, so that, having become arrogant, he might then fall into the judgment of the accuser. 7 It is necessary for him also to have a good testimony from those outside, so that he might not fall into reproach and the traps of the accuser.

g. This term does not denote “authority over,” but rather, personal care for others.

8 Servants in the church, likewise, must be respectful, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of dishonest gain, 9 holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear consciousness. 10 Let these also be proven first, then let them serve, being blameless. 11 Women, likewise, must be respectful, not accusers, clear-minded, faithful in all. 12 Let servants in the church be husbands of one wife, managing their children well and their own households. 13 For those who have served well gain a good standing for themselves and great confidence in speaking boldly inside the faith that is inside of Christ Jesus.

14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you in a short time. **15** If I should be delayed, however, I would have you know how it is necessary for one to conduct oneself inside the household of God, which is the living Church of God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. **16** And as we speak the same word, great is the mystery of godliness: “The One who was made visible inside of flesh, was made just and innocent inside of Spirit; the One who was seen by angels, was proclaimed among the ethnic peoples, was believed on in the world, and was received up inside of glory.”

4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith [h], giving heed to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons [i], **2** speaking lies in fakery, having been seared in their own consciousness, **3** forbidding to marry, commanding to abstain from foods that God created for sharing with thanksgiving by the faithful and those acknowledging the truth. **4** For everything created of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, but received with thanksgiving **5** and made holy through the word of God and prayer.

h. the fall into Roman darkness and Nicene Christianity

i. the words of the serpent in the garden

6 As you set these things before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being sustained in the words of faith and of the good teaching that you have followed closely. **7** But refuse improper and silly fables. Train yourself, rather, towards devotion to God. **8** For bodily exercise is only a little beneficial, but devotion to God is beneficial towards everything, holding the promise of life in the present and in the future. **9** This saying is trustworthy, that is, worthy of full acceptance. **10** “Into this purpose we toil and strive, because we have hope upon the living God, who is Savior of all mankind, and very much so of believers.” **11** Entreat and teach these things.

12 Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern for the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. **13** Until I come, attend to the public reading of Scripture, to encouragement and to teaching. **14** Do not be negligent of your gift, which was given to you through prophecy [j], with the laying on of the elders’ hands. **15** Ponder these things, make them your own, so that your progress may be visible to all. **16** Hold tightly to yourself and to the teaching. Continue in them, for doing this, you will save both yourself and those hearing you.

j. calling forth Christ into our knowing

5:1 Do not rebuke an elder, that is, a shepherd of the church, but encourage him as a father, and younger men as brothers; **2** treat female elders, shepherds of the church, as mothers [k]: and younger women as sisters inside of all purity.

{k. You see, Paul’s words on women in ministry are contradictory, thus we take fully the liberty that is inside of Christ Jesus regarding sisters serving the Lord.

3 Honor widows who are truly widows. **4** If any widow, however, has children or grandchildren, let those of her own household first learn to be devoted and to give recompense to their own parents, for this is

pleasing in the presence of God. 5 Now, she who is indeed a widow and alone has hope upon God, and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 She who lives in self-indulgence, however, is dead even while living. 7 Instruct also these things, so that each should be above reproach. 8 Now, if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his household, he has refused the faith and he is worse than an unbeliever.

9 Let a widow be enrolled [in financial assistance from the church] who is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 having borne witness in good works, if she has reared children, if she has entertained strangers, if she has washed the feet of the holy ones, if she has helped those in great pressure, and if she has followed after every good work.

11 Refuse younger widows [from church financial assistance], however; for when they have become sensuous of Christ, they desire to marry, 12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. [I] 13 At the same time, they also learn to be idle, going about houses, not only idle, then, but also gossips and busybodies, speaking things that are not proper. 14 I want younger women, therefore, to marry, to bear children, to manage their households, to give no opportunity to those in opposition, because of reproach. 14 For some have already turned away after Satan. 16 If any believer has dependent widows, let them aid them, and let them not be a burden to the church, so that they might aid those who are truly widows.

I. Again, Paul is speaking nonsense here completely contrary to his gospel of Christ our life and against his own teaching that we are led by the Spirit. If a younger woman is led by the Spirit to marry, she is in no way “guilty” of breaking any vow, since vows are already forbidden to the Christian, that is, we do not bind ourselves to anything, so that we might be free to be led by the Spirit in every present moment.

17 Let the elders, shepherds of the flock, who give good attention be counted worthy of double honor, especially those laboring in the word and teaching. 18 As the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox treading out the grain” (Deuteronomy 25:4), and, “The workman is worthy of his wages” (Luke 10:7). 19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder, except it be upon two or three witnesses. 20 Those sinning, however, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also might have fear.

21 I give solemn testimony in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, that you should watch over these things, without pre-judgment, doing nothing out of partiality. 22 Do not lay hands hastily on anyone, nor share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. 23 Don’t drink only water but use a little wine for your stomach and your frequent ailments.

24 The sins of some men are clearly evident, going before them into judgment, some however, will follow after. 25 Likewise, also, good works are clearly evident, but even those things appearing otherwise are not able to be concealed.

6:1 As many as are under a yoke as slaves, let them regard their own masters to be worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching [of Christ] should not be slandered. 2 Those, now, having believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brothers; but rather let them serve, because they are believers and beloved, receiving good service. Teach and encourage these things.

3 If anyone teaches another teaching, and does not approach to connect with the healthy words of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the teaching according to devotion to God, **4** he is arrogant, knowing nothing, but is all about unhealthy controversies and disputes about words, out of which come envy, strife, accusation, suspicions, evil, **5** and constant arguing among men corrupted in mind, and devoid of the truth, who consider devotion to God to be a means of gain. Withdraw away from such.

6 Devotion to God is great gain, however, but with contentment. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, and neither are we able to carry anything out. **8** Having food and clothing, then, with these we will be satisfied. **9** Those who desire to be rich, however, fall into temptation and a snare, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and loss. **10** For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evils, which some reach for, having wandered away from the faith, and have wounded themselves with many sorrows.

11 You, however, O man of God, flee these things; pursue justice, devotion to God, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith. Seize hold of the age-unfolding life into which you were summoned and which you also spoke, that same word of the same good-speaking in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, the One giving life to all, and [in the presence of] Christ Jesus, the One having testified these same good words before Pilate, **14** to keep watch over the full consummation [of God-speaking] without stain, above reproach, until our Lord, Jesus Christ, becomes consciously visible, **15** God will display Christ-made-visible in each one's own seasons, the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of those being kings, and the Lord of those being lords, **16** alone possessing no death, dwelling in unapproachable light, who no one of mankind has seen nor is able to see, to whom be honor and age-unfolding strength. Let it be so – it is so.

17 Instruct the rich in this present age not to be self-exalted, nor to have hope upon uncertain riches, but upon God, the One providing all things richly for enjoyment, **18** to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, to be ready to share, **19** treasuring up for themselves a good foundation into the future, so that they may seize hold of that which is indeed life.

20 O Timothy, guard well the trust committed to you, avoid improper and opposing arguments falsely called knowledge, **21** which some proclaim, having gone astray concerning the faith.

Grace be with you all. Let it be so – it is so.

Titus

1:1 Paul, a servant of God, now an apostle, one sent of Jesus Christ, according to faith in the selection of God, and the acknowledgement of truth, which is according to good reverence. **2** This acknowledgment of truth is found in the hope of life age-abiding, which God, who cannot lie, promised before age-continuing time [a]. **3** This promise He has now revealed, in His own opportune times or seasons, in His word found inside of the proclamation entrusted to me according to the certain arrangement of God our Savior. **4** To Titus, my true child according to our shared faith; Grace and peace from Father God and Christ Jesus our Savior.

a. that is, out from Himself separate from time

5 For this reason, I left you in Crete, so that you might set in order the things lacking and might appoint elders, shepherds of the flock, in every town as I directed you. **6** Select [as an elder] one is irreproachable, the husband of one wife, one who has believing children, and is not under any charge of excessiveness or non-submissiveness. **7** It is necessary for the watch-carer to be irreproachable as the manager and guardian of God's household; not self-pleasing, not prone to anger, not given to alcohol, not contentious, and not greedy of dishonest gain. **8** Rather select one who is hospitable, a lover of good, one who possesses a sound mind, that is, one who is calm, just, reverential, and temperate or modest, **9** one who holds firmly to the teaching of a faithful word, so that he may be able to encourage with sound teaching as well as to reprove those who contradict or speak against.

10 For there are many also who are unsubmitive, empty speakers of empty words, and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision. **11** It is necessary to silence these, for they overturn whole households, teaching things that they ought not for the sake of dishonest gain. **12** One of those empty talkers, one of their own prophets, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, gluttons, and lazy." **13** This testimony [of what these empty talkers say] is true, for which cause rebuke them severely, so that they may be sound and healthy inside of the faith. **14** Do not give heed to Jewish fables [b], or to the injunctions or purposes of men who pervert the truth. **15** To the pure all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and without faith, nothing is pure; instead, their mind and their consciousness are both defiled. **16** They speak the same word as if to know God; they contradict Him in works, however, being detestable and unwilling to be persuaded, being unapproved for any good work.

b. all the many things that Jews say about the Old Testament that are not actually in the text

2:1 You, however, speak the things that are consistent with sound and healthy teaching. **2** Older men are to be sober [not drunk], venerable, of sound mind, sound and healthy in faith, in love, and in perseverance. **3** Older women, likewise, are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or accusers, not being enslaved to too much wine, but teachers of what is good **4** so that they may teach the young women to love their husbands and to love their children. **5** These younger women should be self-controlled, pure, caring for their homes, kind, and in submission to their own husbands, so that the word of God should not be maligned.

6 Encourage the younger men, likewise, to be modest and temperate. **7** In all things, you yourself should present a pattern of good works, in teaching be a pattern of integrity and reverence. **8** Speak sound words beyond reproach, so that whoever is contrary may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say concerning us. **9** Servants are to be submissive to their own masters, being well-pleasing in everything, not speaking against, **10** not stealing, but showing all good fidelity, so that they may set forth the teaching of God our Savior in all things.

11 For the gift and grace of God has become visible, bringing salvation to all humans, **12** teaching us that, having refused irreverence and worldly desires, we should live moderately, justly, and devotedly inside the present age, **13** welcoming in every present moment the blessed hope and visible display of the great God, that is our Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** the One who gave Himself for us, for our sakes, that He might redeem us out from all lawlessness and might purify to Himself a people, His own personal treasure, who are zealous of good works.

15 Speak these things and encourage and convince with all authority. Let no one despise you.

3:1 Remind the brothers and sisters also to be submissive and obedient to rulers and authorities, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable and gentle, showing all humility towards all men and women. 3 For we ourselves were once also without understanding, unwilling to be persuaded, wandering, serving various desires and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 When, however, the kindness and love of the God of our Savior for mankind became visible, 5 not out of works of rightness that we did, but according to His mercy, He saved us through the bath of the rebirth [regeneration] and through the renewing and making fresh of the Holy Spirit 6 whom He poured out upon us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, 17 so that, having been made pure and holy by that grace [the gift of God Himself], we should be heirs according to the hope of age-unfolding life.

8 This word is trustworthy, and I want to affirm confidently concerning these things, so that those believing God may take care to give full attention to good works. These things are beautiful and beneficial to humans. 9 Avoid foolish controversies, however, and genealogies that is, claims made on the basis of natural birth, and arguments and quarrels over the law, for they are worthless and useless. [c] 10 Reject a man who causes divisions after a first and second warning, 11 being aware that such a man is turned inside out and is falling short, being self-condemned.

c. This was the practice of the Pharisees, to argue over the law. Their arguments for the next 1000 years after Christ became The Talmud, the book of a false religion.

12 When I shall send Artemas or Tychicus to you, be diligent to come to me into Nicopolis; for there I have decided to winter. 13 Earnestly equip and send out Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that nothing should be lacking to them. 14 Let our people also learn to devote themselves to good works for obtaining essential needs, so that they should not be without fruit. 15 All those who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us inside the faith. Grace [God Himself] be with all of you. Let it be so – it is so.

2 Timothy

1:1 Paul, an apostle, one sent of Christ Jesus through God's desire, down to the finest details of the promise of life inside of Christ Jesus. 2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from Father God and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I am thankful to God whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a pure consciousness, as I have unceasingly brought you to my mind in my prayers night and day. 4 As I remember your tears, so I long to see you that I might be filled with joy. 5 Having brought to mind your sincere faith, which dwelt first in your grandmother, Lois, and in your mother, Eunice, I am now persuaded that such faith is also inside of you. 6 This is why I remind you to stir up the fire of the gift of God which is inside of you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of reticence, but [a Spirit] of power, of love and of a sound mind.

8 You should not be ashamed, therefore, of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner; rather, you suffer hardships together [with Christ and me] for the gospel, according to the power of God, **9** the One having saved us, who called and summoned us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose – intentions – pro-thesis, and grace. These things have already been given us inside of Christ Jesus separate from the unfolding ages of time. **10** This gospel has become visible now as well through the wondrous appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has indeed abolished death, rendering it inoperable, and now has fully brought life and the inability to decay to light through the gospel. **11** Into this gospel, I was appointed as a herald and an apostle and a teacher of the ethnic peoples. **12** This is why I also suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, for I know the One whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep, to guard, and to watch over my trust into that day.

13 Possess the pattern of sound, reasonable, and pure words which you heard from me inside of faith and love inside of Christ Jesus. **14** Keep that good trust through the Holy Spirit, the One dwelling inside of us.

15 You know that all those in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. **16** May the Lord give mercy to the household of Onesiphorus because he often refreshed me, and he was not ashamed of my chains. **17** Having arrived in Rome, then, he earnestly sought me out and found me. **18** May the Lord give him to find mercy alongside the Lord in that day! And you know how much he served well in Ephesus.

2:1 You, therefore, my child, be empowered inside of the grace that is inside of Christ Jesus. **2** And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, entrust these things to faithful men and women, those who will be sufficient also to teach others. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No one serving as a soldier entangles himself in the affairs of biological life, that he might please the one having enlisted him. **5** And also, if anyone competes, he is not crowned unless he has competed according to the rules. **6** For it is necessary that the hardworking farmer be the first to partake of the fruits. **7** Consider the things I am saying, for the Lord will give you a complete understanding in all.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, issuing out of the seed of David, who was raised out from the dead according to my gospel. **9** In this gospel I suffer hardship, even to being chained as an evildoer. But the word of God is not bound. **10** This is why I persevere through all for the sake of the chosen ones, so that they also might obtain salvation inside of Christ Jesus, with age-unfolding glory. **11** Trustworthy is the saying: “For if we have died together with Him, we shall also live together with Him. **12** If we persevere, we will also reign together with Him; if we contradict, He also will contradict us. **13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He is not able to contradict Himself.”

14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly testify to them, in the face and presence of God, not to quarrel about words, for these quarrels result in nothing profitable but only in the ruin of those hearing. **15** Quickly and eagerly place yourself as fully proven inside the presence of God, a workman not ashamed, cutting straight the word of truth. [a] **16** But avoid unfit and empty babblings for they will result only in even more disrespect. **17** Such talk of these will grow like rotten flesh, among whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus, **18** who have missed the target concerning the truth, asserting the resurrection already to have happened and have overturned the faith of some. **19** Nevertheless, the firm

foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone naming the name of the Lord depart from injustice."

a. That is, placing the ruling verses of the gospel as the definitions of everything else in the Bible.

20 Now, in a great house there are not only golden and silver vessels, but also wooden and earthen ones; and some indeed are purposed for honor, but some are purposed for a dishonorable use. 21 If anyone, therefore, shall have cleansed himself from these things, he will be a vessel purposed for honor, having been made holy and useful to the Master, having been prepared for the purpose of every good work. 22 Flee youthful strong desires; but pursue justice, faith, love, and peace, along with those calling on the Lord out of a pure heart. 24 Refuse foolish and ignorant speculations or controversies, being aware that they only become fights. 25 It is necessary that a servant of the Lord refrain from fighting, but rather to be gentle toward all, able to teach, and patiently enduring what is wrong. 25 In gentleness instruct those opposing, so that God might give them a change of mind into the acknowledgement of the truth, 26 so that they might regain their senses out of the snare of the devil, having been caught under him in his desires.

3:1 Know this, however, that in the last days hard and difficult times will threaten. 2 For men will be self-lovers, money-lovers, imposters, arrogant, slanderous, unpersuaded towards parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, implacable, accusative, without self-control, savage, without love of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of homage to God, but contradicting the power of it. Turn away from these, 6 for out of this sort are those entering into households and ensnaring silly women who are weighed down with falling short. These are carried about by various strong desires. 7 These are always learning, but never able to come to the acknowledgement or personal knowledge of the truth. 8 As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these oppose the truth, men of utterly corrupt mind, unproven regarding the faith. 9 But they will not advance very far, for their folly will be evident to all, just the same as happened to those two.

10 You, however, have closely followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as those that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, and in Lystra. What manner of persecutions I endured! And yet the Lord rescued me out of them all.

12 All, now, who desire to live in reverence to God inside of Christ Jesus will be persecuted and hunted down. 13 Evil men and imposters, however, will become even worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, remain inside the things you have learned and have been assured of, having been aware from whom you learned them. 15 From childhood, you have been aware of the sacred writings which are capable of making you wise into salvation through faith inside of Christ Jesus.

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable towards instruction, towards inner conviction, towards being set straight, towards training inside of justice, 17 so that the man or woman of God may be complete, having been fully equipped toward every good work.

4:1 I earnestly testify, in the face and presence of God and Christ Jesus, the One who is about to judge the living and the dead. I testify also by His becoming visible and by His kingdom that you ² preach the word; that you be ready in season and out of season; that you convince, honor, and encourage inside of all longsuffering and instruction. ³ For there will be a time when they will not allow sound and healthy teaching. Rather, according to their own strong desires, they will gather around themselves such teachers as have an itching ear. ⁴ They will indeed turn away from hearing the truth, for they will turn aside to myths. ⁵ You, however, be sober in all things, bear patiently with the pressures of travail, do the work of an evangelist, and bring your service to full measure.

6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is come. **7** I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. **8** There is reserved for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me in that day; not only to me, however, but also to all those loving His appearance. [b]

b. that is, the Church.

9 Be quick and eager to come to me soon; **10** for Demas has deserted me, having loved the present age, and he has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Luke alone is with me. After you have received Mark, bring him with you; for he is useful to me in service. **12** Tychicus, however, I have sent to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left in Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. **14** Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will return to him according to his deeds. **15** You also be wary of him, for he has opposed our message exceedingly.

16 I In my first defense, no one stood with me, but all deserted me. May it not be accounted to them! The Lord was present with me and empowered me, however, so that through me, the proclamation would be fully accomplished, that all the ethnic peoples should hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. **18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom, to whom is the glory into the seasons of the ages. Let it be so – it is so.

19 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained in Corinth; Trophimus, however, I left ailing in Miletus. **21** Be earnest to come before winter. Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters greet you. **22** The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all. Let it be so – it is so.