

Sermon Title: The Attributes of Hope in Suffering

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 4:9-22

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to develop the attributes of hope in order to endure in ministry.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 situations in which hope is needed in order to endure in ministry.

I. Hope is needed in the times we suffer needs. V.9-16

A. **Hope** is needed when a loved one has forsaken us. V.9 (**Hebrews 13:23**)

1 Samuel 10:26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant *men* went with him, whose hearts God had touched.

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Philippians 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

2 Timothy 1:4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,

Hebrews 13:22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

B. **Hope** is needed when loved ones move on to their own ministries. V.10

Herbert Lockyer gives an excellent picture of what could have happened to Demas:

“Under the strong influence of Paul’s personality, Demas was [converted] . . .

Becoming a disciple, he was carried away by the enthusiasm of sacrifice. He wanted to live with Paul and dies with him, and have a throne and a halo among the martyred saints.

But when Demas came up to the great capital of the then known world in company with the Lord’s prisoners, Paul and Epaphras, it was a different story. He was not a prisoner, and gradually the contrast between the cell and the outer world became intolerable to him. He saw the magnificent halls of the Caesars, the gorgeous homes of the rich and the glitter of a world of music, venal loves, jest and wine. Such a gay world cast its glamour over Demas, and he yielded to its charms. The prison where his friends were languishing seemed wretched alongside the music-haunted, scented, dazzling halls of Rome. Thus Paul had to write one of the most heartbreaking lines in his letters:

‘Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.’ This man of wavering impulse who surrendered the passion of sacrifice and sank in the swirling waters of the world, is a true reflection of the thought that where our love is, there we finally are” (All the Men of the Bible, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1958, p.91f).

Colossians 4:14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

Philemon 1:24 *as do* Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

C. **Hope** is needed when we have ministry to carry on for the Lord. V.11

D. **Hope** is needed when a fellow-laborer has to be sent to his own ministry. V.12

E. **Hope** is needed when practical necessities are lacking. V.13

F. **Hope** is needed when we face evil opposition. V.14-15

“We do not know what Alexander had done; but perhaps we can deduce what harm he did. The word that Paul uses for did me much evil is the Greek verb *endeiknumi*. That verb literally means to display; and it was in fact often used for the laying of information against a man. Informers were one of the great curses of Rome at this time. They sought to curry favour for themselves and to receive rewards by laying information. And it may well be that Alexander was a renegade Christian, who went to the magistrates with false and slanderous information against Paul. It may be that Alexander turned against Paul and sought to ruin him in the most dishonorable way” (The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, p. 252).

G. **Hope** is needed when we are abandoned by others. V.16

II. Hope is needed in the times we suffer loneliness. V.17-18

- A. Hope is based on the steadfast strength of the Lord in ministry. V.17
- B. Hope is based on the steadfast salvation of the Lord in ministry. V.18

III. Hope is needed in the times we suffer concerns. V.19-22

- A. Paul demonstrated concern by greeting other believers. V.19
- B. Paul demonstrated concern by supplying information about other believers. V.20
- C. Paul demonstrated concern by requesting help for himself. V.21a
- D. Paul demonstrated concern by passing on greetings. V.21b
- E. Paul demonstrated concern by passing on the blessings of Christ to others. V.22