

Series: The Essential Church; Sermon: **Never Give Up**;
Delivered on August 18, 2019, by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor

Bible text explored: 2 Timothy 4:9-22

⁹Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹²Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, 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. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. [ESV]

Review and application

1. The late evangelical leader John Stott observed, in light of today's passage, "When we are lonely we need friends; when we are cold, we need clothing; when we are bored we need books." In what ways does Paul demonstrate to Timothy that he isn't too proud to appeal for help . . .
 - . . . with timely companionship (vv. 9 and 21)? See also *Acts 27:9-12*.)
 - . . . to meet both physical and intellectual needs (v. 13)
2. How could you . . .
 - . . . pursue a meaningful personal relationship?
 - . . . allow others to help meet a physical or financial need?
 - . . . proactively seek mental stimulation?

Of the 14 people Paul mentions here, Alexander (vv. 14-15) is an opponent about whom Timothy needs to be warned, and Demas (v. 10) is a former co-worker who has deserted Paul. The rest are people in whom Paul is investing to advance the gospel.

3. Who (v. 20) has been sidelined for health reasons?
4. Who (v. 11) is with Paul, and how would he contribute to the church?
Why was it important that Timothy bring John Mark with him (see *Acts 13:5 and 13; and 15:35-38*), and how do we know Paul's confidence in him was confirmed?
5. Since Paul mentions (v. 12) that he *sent* Tychicus to Ephesus, do you think it likely that he had also dispatched several others named here to plant churches?
Linus, one of those receiving greetings (in v. 21), became, according to early tradition, the bishop of Rome after the deaths of Peter and Paul.
6. How could you make a move to invest in people for local and global gospel ministry?
7. What (vv. 16-18) was the situation at Paul's first court hearing?
Who strengthened him, and what was the outcome?

8. Since Paul, as a Roman citizen, could not be thrown to lions in the amphitheater, and since he expected to soon die, how would he be rescued “from the lion’s mouth”?
(See *Psalm 22:11-13*.)
9. Examples of “the infinite resources of the almighty God” include the crossing of the Red Sea (*Exod. 14:13-14*) and Isaiah’s words to King Ahaz (*Isa. 7:9b*). Read these accounts, or cite other examples, either biblical or from recent events.