



“The Legacy of a Godly Leader”

2 Timothy 4

Lesson 13

In A Nutshell

The results of godly leadership are not completely understood unless the legacy of that leadership is also considered. Paul looks back with satisfaction on a life of godly leadership in this passage, and he looks ahead hoping to have a legacy which endures. Followers are an important part of the legacy of godly leaders. We have examples to follow and a future to serve.

To The Testimony!

The Charge Left Behind

- 2 Tim. 4:1
- Luke 16:28
1. Paul begins his last words to his spiritual son Timothy in this chapter. Although he hopes Timothy can come soon, he recognizes that accomplishing this request would take some diligence on the part of Timothy (verse 9). Paul is writing as one whose time of departure is at hand (verse 6), one whose future on earth is uncertain. The occasion was a solemn one and called for a solemn final "charge." The word Paul uses here, *charge*, is a serious one used sparingly in the New Testament. One usage is Luke 16:28 where it is translated *testify*. Who uses the word in that verse and what makes that occasion a solemn one?

From The Honeycomb

The phrase, "before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 1) can be more literally translated, "before the God and Christ Jesus."

In 1 Tim. 5:21 the phrase, "before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels" can be more literally translated, "before the God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels."

In 2 Tim. 2:14 Paul speaks of making a charge "before the Lord."

Review the principles we learned in the From The Honeycomb exercise in Lesson 9, and explain how this phrase in 1 Tim. 5:21 and 2 Tim. 4:1, "before the God and Christ Jesus," teaches us that Christ Jesus is God:

2 Tim. 4:1 2. This charge of Paul is a solemn one because it is Paul's last word to Timothy. What else makes this charge a solemn one according to verse 1?

2 Tim. 4:2, 5 3. We learned in Lesson 5, question 6, that a leader's ministry ought to be evaluated in terms of fidelity to the Word of God. Paul's final charge to Timothy, "Preach the Word, . . .reprove, rebuke, exhort," reenforces our conviction in this regard. The ministry of the Word of God is the chief duty of the faithful leader. Paul's charge also emphasizes a character trait that is essential to the faithful execution of this responsibility. What is it?

2 Tim. 4:3-4 4. Paul promises Timothy a certain result as he executes his charge to preach the Word. What is this result? What temptation would Timothy face when experiencing this result?

The Course Left Behind

- 2 Tim. 4:6-8 5. It is not the man who looks ahead with enthusiasm for the work of God who is ready for the reward of the Lord; it is the man who is looking back with that joy who is ready. Many start well, but fewer finish well. 2 John 8 warns against losing our reward as Christians. Why did Paul not lose his reward (verse 7)? Why have some leaders lost their reward (2 John 7-11)?

The Concerns Left Behind

- 2 Tim. 4:10-15 6. Whereas Paul loved the appearing of the Lord, Demas loved this present world, abandoning Paul in his time of greatest need. Alexander is described by Paul as one who did Paul much evil and vigorously opposed his teaching. After reading Ps. 55:12-15, whom would you say hurt Paul the most? Why?

- 2 Tim. 4:16-22 7. After a lifetime of faithful ministry, Paul came to the hour of his greatest danger and experienced the tragic plight that no man stood with him. In spite of all the service he had rendered to so many for so long, none of these came to Paul's aid at his lowest hour. What can God's leader expect to find on that lonely day when no man stands with him?

Real Life?

"Another negative message on the doom and gloom conditions of society," complained Deacon Jones to Deacon Smith. "I am glad that there were no visitors today. I am sure that if there were, they would never come back. To tell you the truth, I wonder why I put up with it myself. It seems as though I am always depressed after I listen to Pastor. He rides these negative themes and seems to never look on the bright side. I just don't see our church growing much under this tone of preaching. I read an article in the paper about a congregation on the West Coast that has grown 300% over the last two years. In the interview their pastor said he only tries to help people fall in love with Jesus. Our pastor never seems to talk about falling in love with Jesus, only sin and all that is bad in the world. I want to talk to pastor about it, but I don't want to do it alone. Would you go with me?"

How can Deacon Smith respond with the help of 2 Timothy 4?