



MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2021

An Urgent Call for Faithful Friendship  
2 Timothy 4:9-15

### Stepping Stones to Paul's Appeal to Timothy

**1. Paul is filled with an affectionate longing to see Timothy one last time (1:4)**

*"As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy."*

**2. Paul's imprisonment is a source of honor, not shame, for Timothy (1:8-12)**

*"Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace... which is why I suffer as I do."*

**3. Paul has been abandoned by believers (1:15)**

*"You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me..."*

**4. Some are actively opposing the Good News (3:8)**

*"...these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith."*

**5. Harassment, not ease, validates faithful discipleship (3:12-13)**

*"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..."*

**6. Christ, the Righteous Judge, will reward lives of affectionate expectation (4:8)**

*"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award... to all who have loved his appearing."*

**7. Paul's time is short (4:6)**

*"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come."*

### Paul's Urgent Need for Timothy (2 Timothy 4:9-13)

*"Do your best to come to me soon. For **DEMAS**, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. **CRESCENS** has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **LUKE** alone is with me. Get **MARK** and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. **TYCHICUS** I have sent to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with **CARPUS** at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments."*

### Paul's Warning to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:14-15)

*"**ALEXANDER** the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message."*

## Faithful friends in ministry...

### ...are a gift from the Father

*Rom. 12: 4-5 — For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (see 2 Tim. 1:3)*

### ... provide emotional support

*Rom. 12: 15 — Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (see 2 Tim.1:4)*

### ... encourage us in the life of Christ

*Rom. 12: 11 — Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (see 2 Tim.1:5-7)*

### ... provide material help

*Rom. 12: 13 — Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (see 2 Tim. 1:16-18)*

### ... enhance our service to Christ

*Rom. 12:6 — Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them (see 2 Tim. 4:11)*

### ...remain through hardship

*Rom. 12: 12 — Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (see 2 Tim. 4:17)*

### ... are concerned with our well-being.

*Rom. 12: 10 — Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (see 2 Tim. 4:15)*

## Reflection/Application

1. In reading the list of seven distinctives above, who has God put in your life as a Faithful Christian friend? What's the best way to communicate your gratitude and affection to them this week?
2. As you reflect on your relationships with Christian sisters and brothers in your life, are you a faithful friend? Have you ever been tempted to pull back or abandon a friend due to their circumstances (pain and loss, political disagreement, unresolved conflict)?
3. Think of people in the VBC family you are currently getting to know. Pray through Paul's description of genuine love in Romans 12:9-21, asking the Lord how you can grow as a faithful friend toward these people and others.

## SONGS

"God Is For Us" - James Ferguson, James Tealy, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson

"I Am Set Free" - Leslie Jordan

"Hiding Place" - Valley Bible Worship

"Reign Above It All" - Ethan Hulse, Hannah McClure, Jess Cates, and Paul McClure

## BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$35,205.18  
WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,013,437.46  
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,128,704.00