

2 TIMOTHY 4 INTRODUCTION

Paul indicated there is still much hard work to do for the kingdom of God, there is a Crown of Righteousness awaiting those who put God first in their lives, and we can no longer expect supernatural miracles

Passage	Comments
2Timothy 4:1-4	<p>Keep Proclaiming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. Preach the Word continually, take every opportunity – Reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction – But is this for believers or unbelievers? – Consider this, if we rebuke a wise man they will appreciate it, but scorners will hate you Prov 9:8 – YES, we should challenge believers and unbelievers with the unvarnished truth of God’s word since He will judge the living (believers) & the dead (unbelievers) – Even John the Baptist reprovved and rebuked Herod (a nonbeliever) for his sinful behavior..... Luke 3:19
4:5-8	<p>Keep the Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v5. “...<i>be sober or serious-minded</i>...” – Does this mean we can’t have a sense of humor? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We can’t laugh everything off. Living a meaningless life and going to Hell is not a laughing matter ♦ We need to understand each situation and behave appropriately v6. Paul’s “<i>departure</i>” is not a termination but a transition v7. “...<i>finished the race</i>” – We are in a life-long marathon, not a short-lived sprint – so we need God to “<i>teach us to number our days</i>” Psalms 90:12
4:9-15	<p>Keep Helping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v10. “...<i>Demas has deserted me, for he loved this present world</i>...” – Demas was once a valued coworker [Col 4:14; Philem 24], but he opted to live for pleasure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Persecution has a way to ‘thin the herd’ v11. “...<i>Pick up Mark – for he is useful to me</i>...” – Paul worked out his earlier difficulties with Mark Acts 15 v13. “...<i>bring the parchments</i>” – Paul had more to write
4:16-18	<p>Keep Trusting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v16. “Everyone deserted me...” – It is hard to envision loyal co-workers such as Luke, Titus and others forsaking Paul. But Paul does mention the disloyalty of Demas (4:10), Hymenaeus and Philetus (2:16) and Alexander (1Tim 1:20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Probably the faithful ones such as Luke, Titus and others mentioned in this chapter were on other assignments at different localities, and were not the ones who deserted Paul v18. “<i>God will rescue me from every evil</i>...” – In essence, this is true even in death
4:19-22	<p>Keep the Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul lists some faithful coworkers (Prisca & Aquilla, Onesiphorus’ household, Erastus, Trophimus, Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and “all the brethren” – We are never in this battle by ourselves – take heart!
4:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v20. “...<i>Trophimus I left sick at Miletus</i>.” – Here’s another incident of Paul being unable to heal or work a miracle to restore a sick coworker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall how Paul told Timothy to take some wine (medicine) for his many ailments 1Tim 5:23 ♦ ...and Paul thanked God for mercifully healing Epaphroditus after a severe illness..... Phil 2:27

Passage	Comments
Paul was once able to do mighty works of God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recall that Paul once worked mighty signs & wonders in Iconium with Barnabas Acts 14:3 He also “<i>performed extraordinary miracles</i>” with a handkerchief to heal the sick Acts 19:11-12 He even raised the dead..... Acts 20:9-10 ...and cast out demons Acts 16:18 ...and Paul was once able to heal EVERY sick person on the island of Malta beginning with a man who had a stomach problem (dysentery).. Acts 28:8-9
So, Why Couldn't Paul Heal Trophimus, Timothy, or Epaphroditus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Paul and/or the guys harbored unconfessed sin? <input type="checkbox"/> Paul lost his faith, or didn't pray hard & long enough? <input type="checkbox"/> God works miracles whimsically & unpredictably? <input type="checkbox"/> God only works easy miracles? <input type="checkbox"/> We are not able to discern or prove such things? <input type="checkbox"/> The Holy Spirit stopped working supernaturally after the Gospel was initially confirmed? Heb 2:3,4
Or do we have contradictions in Scripture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mat 17:20 “...<i>if your faith is the size of a mustard seed ...nothing will be impossible to you</i>.” • Mat 18:19 “... <i>if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them</i>” • Mat 21:22 “<i>And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive</i>” • John 14:12 “<i>Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father</i>”
How Do We Reconcile This?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to acknowledge from what we see in Scripture the Holy Spirit ceased working supernatural healings and miracles (aka, “the signs of an Apostle”) even before the end of the Apostolic age • The Holy Spirit doesn't work supernatural miracles whimsically, but according to specific time periods or dispensations “according to His own will” ...Heb 2:3,4 • We won't see godly supernatural miracles again until the two witnesses come on the world scene Rev 11

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Persecution or no persecution, in season or out, convenient or not convenient, friends or no friends, we need to be about the Lord's work while it is still day
- We do not have any contradictions in Scripture – so let God be true and every man a liar – we just have to come to grips with who God's promises are for or the conditions they may come with

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Trophimus, I need to leave you here in Miletus (2Tim 4:20), and if you see Timothy remind him to take his medicine for his stomach problems and frequent ailments (1Tim 5:23). A red Chardonnay wine should work just fine.