

The Lord Stood with Me.
(2 Timothy 4:9-18)
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Introduction: Have You Ever Felt Abandoned?

- A. Abandonment can be a scary and overwhelming feeling in which one feels vulnerable, weak, and helpless in their situation.
- B. Have you ever been left alone to face a great challenge? Hurt, neglected, and forsaken to confront your own problems with no one to help or support you?
- C. Every Christian can, like the apostle Paul, overcome abandonment by putting their complete trust in the Lord who will never leave or forsake His disciples.

I. Wounded, Forsaken, and Facing Death (2 Tim. 4:9-16).

A. Forsaken by self-centered cowards (2 Tim. 4:10a).

- 1. Like Demas, sometimes we are abandoned by those who love their life more than they love the Lord and His cause (cf. “cowardly” – **Rev. 21:8**).
- 2. Security and comfort in “this present world” is so important, they are unwilling to lose their lives for Jesus or make sacrifices (**Mat. 16:24-26**).
- 3. Such brethren are likely to compromise the truth, lacking courage for the cause of Christ when the going gets tough (**Gal. 6:12**).
- 4. Many churches have dwindled in size due to members’ cowardice, unwilling to stand for what is right in the face of the world’s opposition.

B. Harmed by persecutors (2 Tim. 4:14-15).

- 1. Like Alexander, there will be people, sometimes even brethren that will do us harm for standing for the truth of God’s word.
- 2. Persecution will come for every Godly Christian (2 Tim. 3:12), even from those near and dear to us (**Mat. 10:34-39**).
- 3. Persecutors can do us “much harm” and we may feel defeated.
- 4. The devil works through people who oppose Christianity to destroy God’s people (e.g., coworker, classmate, neighbor, family member, etc.).

C. Deserted by all and facing death (2 Tim. 4:16a).

- 1. Paul understood that the time of his death was near (2 Tim. 4:6).
- 2. Paul was all alone with no support or anyone that would stand with him as he gave an “answer” (defense – apologia), likely before a judge.
- 3. Undoubtedly, Paul felt abandoned, perhaps even broken-hearted and sad for a time that no one would stand with him.
- 4. Similarly the disciples forsook Jesus when He was arrested (**Mk 14:50**).
- 5. When we receive little or no support from others when facing tough challenges, we may begin to wonder if anyone even cares (**Job 19:13-19**).

II. How the Apostle Paul Overcome His Adversity.

- A. Paul forgave those who did not stand with him (**2 Tim. 4:16b**).
1. Paul could have become resentful for his lack of support, but instead he did not want their sin charged against them (cf. **Lk. 23:34; Acts 7:60**).
 2. Don't wallow in self-pity and let bitterness destroy you! Instead, practice the forgiveness of God in Christ (**Eph. 4:31-32**).
- B. Paul trusted in God's justice (**2 Tim. 4:14**).
1. Paul could have easily developed a vengeful or spiteful heart for what Alexander the coppersmith did to him, but he didn't!
 2. The worse thing you can do is store ill-will in your heart toward those who have harmed you or plan your revenge (**Prov. 20:22; 24:29**).
 3. Like Paul, hand it over to the Lord who judges righteously (**Rm. 12:19**).
- C. Paul trusted in the Lord for deliverance (**2 Tim. 4:17-18**).
1. The Lord's deliverance of Paul from "*the mouth of the lion*" likely referred to his pending execution decided by Caesar (cf. **Ps. 22:13, 21**).
 2. Whatever "lion" you may have to face in life, the Lord will not abandon you in your hour of need!
 - a. Troublesome times (**Heb. 13:5-6; cf. Ps. 118:6**).
 - b. Persecutors (**Ps. 7:1-2; 17:12; 35:17; 57:4**).
 - c. The devil himself! (**1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Cor. 10:13**).

III. Stand with the Lord and He Will Stand with You.

- A. The Christian never stands alone (**2 Tim. 4:17a**).
1. For the Lord to stand with you, you must first stand with the Lord by putting your faith and trust in Him (**Deut. 31:6; cf. Heb. 13:5-6**).
 2. Prayer and meditation of Scripture are essential (**Ps. 145:18-19; 1:1-3**).
 3. Confidence that the Lord is with you depends on your commitment to practice righteousness, even to suffer for His sake (**1 Pet. 3:12ff; 4:12-14**).
- B. The Lord who stands with you will provide great strength (**2 Tim. 4:17b**).
1. Paul was able to preach God's word in adversity, even when confronted by "the lion's mouth" because of the strength which the Lord supplied.
 2. We can also live the Christian life victoriously by the strength God gives us when the Lord is near (**Ps. 73:26-28; cf. Phil. 4:13**).
 3. Even when "all alone," the Lord is by your side giving you the strength you need to overcome *any* challenge that comes your way!
- C. "*The Lord shall deliver me.*" (**2 Tim. 4:18**).
1. Abandonment, betrayal, persecution, etc. cannot cause us to fear, give up or become unfaithful with the Lord by our side who rescues us.
 2. The Lord's deliverance and protection gives us great confidence in our salvation, no matter what our enemies may say or do (**Rom. 8:35-37**).

Conclusion: Even when it seems that you are all alone, remember that you are never, ever truly alone when you stand with the Lord!