

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

"Views of Six Men"

2 Timothy 4:9-12

INTRODUCTION

1. Paul has written a stout letter to Timothy. This second epistle has centered in the Gospel. The final chapter shows that this Gospel has been faithfully supported. Paul is now ready to die.

2. There were companions of Paul in the Gospel. Men who were associated with him for the truth. He reviews their posture at this juncture in his own life. Look at his comments and be spiritually refreshed:-

1. ABOUT DEMAS -- THE DESERTER v. 10.

a. His identification

Earlier Paul had referred to Demas as "my fellow-worker" (Philemon 24). Clearly, he had served the Lord with Paul. In Colossians (4:14) he is mentioned, but without any comment whatsoever. Perhaps he was already a suspect for worldliness at that time!

b. His action

Two items are mentioned: a) forsaken Paul and b) loved this present world. The former verb is imperfect and suggests a slow but persistent process. Cleavages of any sort are not abrupt; they are the result of tantalizing processes. Demas was pulled from Paul by the world. The Greek actually states "the now age" (cf. Rom. 12:2). The specific facts are not spelled out, but it may have been possessions, pleasure, popularity, pride, and/or present views. These same drawing cards persist to the present hour.

c. His destination

The text says that Demas left Rome where Paul was, apparently in the hope of getting away from persecution. He was really jumping from the frying pan into the fire because the Thessalonians loved Paul and were out and out believers (1 Thess 1). Demas wanted to be a Christian, but it hurt him to be one. How many there are of that kind!

2. ABOUT CRESCENS -- THE COMMONER v. 10.

The simple brief word given here about this man is all the Bible records about him. He is like the "others" (Heb. 11:35, 36) or the "helps" (1 Cor. 12:28). God always has his Andrews behind the Peters; Hanani behind Nehemiah; Kimball behind Moody. Do not despair if God has been pleased to give you this role in the body. It is important to Him. Hallelujah!

3. ABOUT TITUS -- THE PASTOR v. 10.

Here is a view of a man entirely opposite to Crescens. Titus was a leader (Titus 1:5). A whole book is addressed to him as a Pastor. We need both kinds in God's house. Whereas all cannot be leaders, neither can all be followers. God arranges the gracious balance. It is for us to find the role assigned by God and live in it! From Crete, Titus had gone to Dalmatia on the Greek mainland.

4. ABOUT LUKE -- THE MEDIC v. 11.

a. His position.

Being the author of the Book of Acts, it is assumed that Luke includes himself in the famous "we" sections (Acts 16:10 etc.). Apparently he ministered to Paul and then joined his Gospel team!

b. His contribution.

Not much is noted, but it is obvious he contributed literary (Luke, Acts) to the work of God. His medical expertise is not dominant, but present (Col. 4:14). No one will ever estimate what it meant for Paul to have this man continually from Troas to Rome--and as the text says here - "only Luke is with me." His dedication was uncompromising to the end!

5. ABOUT MARK -- THE ASSISTANT v. 11.

a. His past.

This was not very glorious with Paul (Acts 13:13). He became a problem which resulted in a break-up of Paul and Barnabus (Acts 15:36-41).

b. His present.

It is glorious to read that Mark had changed. Paul wanted him now. Why? He was now useful (so Greek for "profitable;" same word as in 2:21) unto the ministry for Paul. His restoration is like that of Jonah and Peter! Mark is

a testimony to the restoration power of the Lord!

6. ABOUT TYCHICHUS -- THE VALET v. 12.

a. His connections

Tychichus is prominent in Paul's life (Col. 4:7).

- 1) He is noted as a "beloved brother" which marks him out as of worth and of the same spiritual family as Paul.
- 2) He is a "fellow servant." This means he was a slave, like Paul, unto the Lord.
- 3) He is a "faithful minister" which notes he was a trusted servant. All is "in the Lord." He was a fantastic man!

b. His commission

As one apparently ready to be a "gopher" for Paul (one who would "go for" another), Tychichus was sent to Ephesus where Timothy was pastor. Perhaps he was to take Timothy's place, so Timothy could come to Paul (v. 9). Mark might well have been expected to take the place of Tychichus as a personal aid to Paul. Paul made the arrangements and Tychichus did them!

Conclusion

It is a rich and abiding blessing to review with Paul those who had labored in the Gospel with him. May the Lord grant you joy to view your spiritual friendship in Christ too!