

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Timothy 4:9-22**.
- B. As one reads the NT it should become increasingly clear that there is an urgency to the gospel. It must be preached and preached quickly.
- C. In an age of no mass communication, transportation or electronic media the apostles and early Xians preached the gospel to the whole world (Col. 1:23).
- D. In Paul's last days, he wants Timothy to come to him soon, before winter. Using this as our illustration we see that we need to preach the gospel "before winter" (2Tim. 4:9,21).

I. **URGENCY, BECAUSE IT IS EASY TO FALL AWAY.**

- A. One of the saddest things to know, is to know that a Xian is no longer walking in the light. Falling away from the faith (or church) is a sad but real possibility.
- B. In our text, Demas and Alexander both did Paul harm because of their sin. Demas has fallen away and gone back to the world and Alexander opposed the teaching of the truth (2Tim. 4:9,14).
- C. We have many passages which teach that a child of God can be lost after once being saved (2Pet. 2:20; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26,27; Gal. 1:6; 5:4).
- D. This is why there is an urgency to "come before winter" and to encourage each other. A person doesn't fall away all at once, but it is usually a slow process over time. Satan "lulls us to sleep" spiritually (Heb. 3:12-13; Eph. 5:15-17).

II. **URGENCY, BECAUSE MUCH FALSE DOCTRINE IS BEING TAUGHT.**

- A. I listed some to the false doctrines being taught in the world today and stopped at 25 because I got writer's cramp. I then listed some more.
- B. People are being sold a bill of goods about religion and Xianity by false teachers and liars. It is absolutely unbelievable what people are being taught and what they are believing in the name of JC.
- C. Alexander (from our text) opposed the sound teaching of Paul. There are people who will come in and try to tear down the word of God (Ac. 20:28-30; Gal. 1:7-9; Jude v10-13).
- D. Paul wanted to look at the parchments and books one more time. We need to have that attitude about the truth. We want to look at it, for it, one more time no matter how many times we have previously (2Tim. 4:13).

III. **URGENCY, BECAUSE LIFE IS SHORT AT BEST.**

- A. Paul know that his life was about over (2Tim. 4:6-8).
- B. Life is but a vapor according to James (Jas. 4:14).
- C. Even if we live to be over 100 years old, this period of time will seem like a puff in the eons of eternity.
- D. Life is encountered one day at a time. We cannot go back and re-live yesterday, nor can we be assured of tomorrow (Mt. 6:34).
- E. See the urgency in getting the message out to the world.

IV. **URGENCY, BECAUSE GOD WILL BLESS.**

- A. Kids become very impatient when they know that presents are on the way. At birthdays, Christmas, etc., kids just can't wait to get at those gifts
- B. We often can't want to go on vacation, to a ball game, social activity, etc., because of the fun times that await us.
- C. One thing about doing God's will is that He will bless us in what we do. We should become just as ready to preach because of the blessings that will come as we are to do other things that bring happiness (2Tim. 4:17-18; Rom. 1:15)

- D. Spiritually, blessings will come our way when we see the urgency of the gospel and begin to preach it as to save souls.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We need to realize the urgency that is in the preaching of the gospel and then go out and share our faith, and share from the word of God.
- B. There is urgency because:
 - 1. It is easy to fall away from the church.
 - 2. There is a lot of false doctrine being taught.
 - 3. Life is short at best.
 - 4. God will richly bless those who do His will in preaching.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.