Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 298 – October 25th – 2 Timothy 4:1-22

Works frequently referenced in these notes on 2 Timothy

Mounce, Willian D Word Biblical Commentary Vol 46: Pastoral Epistles, Nashville, Thomas

Nelson, 2000

Stott, John R W Guard the Gospel: The message of 2 Timothy, London, IVP, 1973

2 Timothy 4:1

Διαμαρτύρομαι ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ, τοῦ μέλλοντος κρίνειν ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς, καὶ τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν βασιλείαν αὐτοῦ·

διαμαρτυρομαι declare solemnly and emphatically, charge

Cf. 1 Tim 5:21.

ένωπιον prep with gen before, in the presence of

μελλω (before an infin) be going, be about κρινω judge, pass judgement on ζῶντας Verb, aor act ptc, m acc pl ζαω live, be alive

νεκρος, α, ov dead

For the phrase 'the living and the dead' cf. Acts 10:42; 1 Pet 4:5.

ἐπιφανεια, ας f appearing, coming

In place of καὶ τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν many MSS read κατα τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν. Metzger argues that this arose from a desire to smooth the awkward grammar of the verse.

Verse 2

κήρυξον τὸν λόγον, ἐπίστηθι εὐκαίρως ἀκαίρως, ἔλεγξον, ἐπιτίμησον, παρακάλεσον, ἐν πάση μακροθυμία καὶ διδαχῆ.

κήρυξον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s κηρυσσω preach, proclaim

tov λ oyov is the message of the gospel, cf. 3:14.

ἐπίστηθι Verb, 2 aor act imperat, 2 s ἐφιστημι approach; stand by; here perhaps be insistent or be busy in one's job

εὐκαιρως when the time is right; when convenient

ἀκαιρως when the time is not right

Hendriksen thinks that the verb ἐφιστημι should carry its normal meaning here. He understands this injunction to mean, "'Be on hand in season, out of season.' Welcome or not welcome, Timothy must ever be on the spot with the message from God." Hendriksen therefore understand εὐκαιρως to refer to the recipients of the message, though it could be referred to Timothy, the messenger. Mounce sums up the phrase saying, "Timothy is always to be prepared to preach and perform his ministry, in season and out of season. It can possibly be a military metaphor, 'the Christian minister must always be on duty' (Guthrie)."

ἔλεγξον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s ἐλεγχω show (someone his) fault, convict ἐπιτιμαω command, rebuke
 παρακάλεσον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s παρακαλεω exhort, encourage, urge

"The four main imperatives ('Preach! Confront! Rebuke! Exhort!') loosely parallel the four propositional phrases in 3:16('profitable for teaching, reproof [ἐλεγμον; cf. variant spelling ἐλεγχον], correcting [ἐπανορθωσιν], training in righteousness'), especially if 'exhort' is encouragement to live out the gospel (i.e., 'righteousness')." Mounce.

μακροθυμια, ας f longsuffering, patience διδαχη, ης f teaching, what is taught

Verse 3

ἔσται γὰρ καιρὸς ὅτε τῆς ὑγιαινούσης διδασκαλίας οὐκ ἀνέξονται, ἀλλὰ κατὰ τὰς ἰδίας ἐπιθυμίας ἑαυτοῖς ἐπισωρεύσουσιν διδασκάλους κνηθόμενοι τὴν ἀκοήν,

ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι καιρος, ου m time, season, age ότε conj when, at which time ὑγιαινω be sound, be in good health διδασκαλια, ας f teaching, doctrine

I.e. the gospel, cf. 1 Tim 1:10.

ἀνεχομαι endure, be patient with ἰδιος, α, ον one's own ἐπιθυμια, ας f desire, lust, passion ἑαυτος, ἑαυτη, ἑαυτον him/her/itself ἐπισωρευω accumulate, collect

Here only in the NT.

διδασκαλος, ου m teacher

"The passage emphasises once again the hypocrisy of the Ephesian church. They chose not to put up with correct teaching. The false teachers are chosen in accordance with their own evil desires. Rather than hearing one correct teacher, they build a wall of teachers as if the sheer number of teachers will make them right. What they really want is to have their itching ears tickled with the latest doctrinal fad. Paul's critique finds application during every stage of the church in the last days."

κνηθομαι feel an itching

Here only in the NT.

ἀκοη, ης f hearing, the ear

The word means an act of hearing or listening and hence, as here, the ear. In the following verse the word means 'hearing' or 'listening.'

"They have ears that are itching (from a verb which in the active means to tickle, and thus to itch, fig. 'to have an irritating desire'). Their craving is for teachers to suit their fancies or perverted tastes (see on 2 Tim 2:22). So great is their hankering that they pile up teacher upon teacher. This reminds one of Jer. 5:31, The prophets prophesy falsely ... and my people love to have it so.' and of Ezek 33:32, 'And lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear thy words, but they do them not.' The people here pictured are more interested in something different, something sensational, than they are in sober truth. And when sober truth is presented (as it surely was with Ezekiel) they are not interested in the truth itself, but only in the way in which it is presented, the preacher's 'style,' 'oratory,' ... the preacher *himself*, his voice, bearing, looks, mannerisms. Here in 2 Tim 4:3,4 the emphasis is on the craving for fascinating stories and philosophical speculations." Hendriksen.

Verse 4

καὶ ἀπὸ μὲν τῆς ἀληθείας τὴν ἀκοὴν ἀποστρέψουσιν, ἐπὶ δὲ τοὺς μύθους ἐκτραπήσονται.

άληθεια, ας f truth, reality άκοη, ης f see v.3. άποστρεφω turn away μυθος, ου m myth, fanciful story ἐκτρεπομαι wander, go astray, stray after

Verse 5

σὺ δὲ νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποίησον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον.

νηφω be sober, be self-controlled

A call to be clear minded, cf. 1 Thess 5:6,8.

κακοπάθησον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s κακοπαθεω undergo hardship; endure hardship patiently

Cf. 1:8.

εὐαγγελιστης, ου m one who preaches the good news, evangelist

"The emphasis of the word is on the task of one so gifted; it does not describe a church office." Mounce.

διακονια, ας f ministry, service πληροφόρησον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s πληροφορεω accomplish, complete

Verse 6

Έγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἀναλύσεώς μου ἐφέστηκεν.

ήδη adv now, already σπενδομαι be poured out as a drinkoffering (of one's life), give one's life in sacrifice

"The present tense here stresses that the process has begun, and the passive voice that God, not Rome, is still in control, despite appearances." Mounce.

Paul uses similar imagery in Phil 2:17, but there the reference is to his life of ministry rather than his death.

καιρος, ου m see v.3 ἀναλυσις, εως f departure, death

"ἀναλυσις occurs only here in the NT but is used of soldiers breaking camp or sailors loosing a ship from its moorings and is a known euphemism for death... Its verbal cognate, ἀναλυειν, 'to depart,' occurs in Phil 1:23 also as a euphemism, emphasising the passage from life through death to be with Christ." Mounce

ἐφέστηκεν Verb, perf act indic, 3 s ἐφιστημι see v.2

Here in the sense of be imminent.

Verse 7

τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα·

"In view of his impending death Paul recites his spiritual legacy, not in a self-serving way but in a way that shows his perseverance as an encouragement to Timothy." Mounce

καλος, η, ον good, right, proper ἀγων, ωνος m struggle, fight, opposition

ήγωνισμαι Verb, perf midd/pass dep indic, 1 s ἀγωνιζομαι struggle, fight, compete

The picture now shifts from that of a wrestling match to a race. Cf. 1 Cor 9:24-27.

δρομος, ου m course (of life) τετέλεκα Verb, perf act indic, 1 s τελεω complete, finish, fulfill, carry out

"δρομος can mean 'course' in general ... but most believe it is specifically an athletic course, a race. Acts uses the word of John the Baptist finishing his ministry (Acts 13:25) and of Paul's desire to finish his ministry (Acts 20:24). On the basis of this statement, most conclude that Paul knows his life will soon end (also 2 Tim 1:15-18; 4:16-18) and date this epistle as the last of Paul's writings. Paul has persevered and has brought his ministry to its intended end, its goal, its full completion, that all the Gentiles might hear the good news of the gospel." Mounce.

πιστις, εως f faith, trust τετήρηκα Verb, perf act indic, 1 s τηρεω keep, observe, maintain

The definite article before $\pi \iota \sigma \tau \iota \varsigma$ suggests the objective sense, 'the Christian faith.' "In this case Paul would be saying that he has safely guarded the deposit of the gospel (cf. 2 Tim 1:14), preserving it from attack ('kept the faith')." Mounce

Lock comments on what appears to be Paul's self-commendation, "With St Paul there is always $X\rho\iota\sigma\tau\sigma\varsigma$ behind the $\grave{e}\gamma\omega$ (Gal 2:20), always the thought of the grace which enables him who can do nothing by himself to do all things in his strength (1 Cor 15:10; Phil 4:13; 1 Tim 1:12); and to one who so recognises the power which enables him to be what he is, there is a true self-confidence, a legitimate self-praise; especially when, as here, the purpose is to give confidence to a younger man to follow."

Verse 8

λοιπὸν ἀπόκειταί μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνη τῆ ἡμέρα, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής, οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοὶ ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἡγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

λοιπος, η, ον rest, remaining: (το) λοιπον adv. finally, henceforth, from now on ἀποκειμαι be stored away δικαιοσυνη, ης f righteousness στεφανος, ου m wreath, crown, prize

The victor's wreath, cf. 2 Tim 2:5. "Despite the imagery of God giving Paul a crown, there is no suggestion that Paul is thinking of a specific reward beyond that of life with Christ." Mounce.

ἀποδιδωμι give, pay, render ἐκεινος, η, ο demonstrative adj. that (one) δικαιος, α, ον righteous, just κριτης, ου m judge μονος, η, ον i) adj only, alone; ii) adv μονον only, alone ἐμοὶ Pronoun, dat s ἐγω ἀγαπηκόσι Verb, perf act ptc, m dat pl ἀγαπαω love, show love for

I.e. 'long for.'

έπιφανεια, ας f see v.1

The Christian life is to have a continual eschatological focus: we live towards the hope of Christ's coming.

Verse 9

Σπούδασον έλθεῖν πρός με ταχέως·

σπούδασον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s σπουδαζω do one's best, work hard at ἐλθεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἐρχομαι ταχεως adv. quickly, at once, soon

Paul is concerned that Timothy come before winter impedes his journey, cf. v 21.

Verse 10

Δημᾶς γάρ με ἐγκατέλιπεν ἀγαπήσας τὸν νῦν αἰῶνα, καὶ ἐπορεύθη εἰς Θεσσαλονίκην, Κρήσκης εἰς Γαλατίαν, Τίτος εἰς Δαλματίαν

The urgency comes in part from Paul's loneliness and a desire for friends and helpers to be with him.

ἐγκατέλιπεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἐγκαταλειπω forsake, abandon ἀγαπήσας Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s ἀγαπαω love, show love for

Note the contrast with πᾶσι τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ of v 8.

αίων, αίωνος m age, world order

"Demas had at one time been Paul's assistant in gospel-ministry (Philemon 24). During his first Roman imprisonment Demas too, had been in Rome. Twice the apostle had mentioned him in one breath with Luke the beloved physician Col 4:14; Philemon 25)." Hendriksen.

Demas has now abandoned Paul and, it would seem, abandoned gospel work.

ἐπορεύθη Verb, aor pass dep indic, 3 s πορευομαι go, proceed, travel

"Titus had gone to Dalmatia. Perhaps he wintered in Nicopolis on his return from Crete and then headed north... Dalmatia was the southwestern part of Illyricum on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea (modern day Yugoslavia, currently Croatia, Bosnia, and Hertzegovina...). Paul had gone as far as Illyricum in his journeys (Rom 15:19), so Titus may have been following up on Paul's missionary endeavours as he may have done in Crete." Mounce

Verse 11

Λουκᾶς ἐστιν μόνος μετ' ἐμοῦ. Μᾶρκον ἀναλαβὼν ἄγε μετὰ σεαυτοῦ, ἔστιν γάρ μοι εὕχρηστος εἰς διακονίαν,

μονος, η, ον adj only, alone

"There may be more here than an expression of loneliness ... the apostle also wishes to stress the fact that he is short on help." Hendriksen. The greetings of v 21 suggest there are others with Paul or able to contact him. Hence the meaning here may be that Luke alone of Paul's inner circle is left with him. Luke was probably the amanuensis of this epistle.

ἀναλαβων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s ἀναλαμβανω take up, take σεαυτου, ης reflexive pronoun yourself εὐχρηστος, ον useful, beneficial

"John Mark was the son of Mary of Jerusalem and the cousin of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey as far as Pamphylia but then returned to Jerusalem (Acts 12:12, 25; 13:13). The circumstances were such that Paul did not want to take him on the second missionary journey, so Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus and Paul took Silas (Acts 15:37, 39). Evidently there was a reconciliation because Mark was with Paul in his first Roman imprisonment and was called Paul's fellow worker (Col 4:10-11; Phlm 24; cf. 1 Pet 5:13). "Tim 4:11 is often seen as an acknowledgement that the reconciliation was complete, although this can be assumed from Paul's prior use of the title fellow worker." Mounce.

διακονια, ας f ministry, service, help

Hendriksen argues that Paul means that Mark would be useful for necessary kingdom-work in Rome – not simply as a personal servant.

Verse 12

Τυχικὸν δὲ ἀπέστειλα εἰς Ἔφεσον.

ἀποστειλα Verb, aor act indic, 1 s ἀποστελλω send, send out

May be an epistolatory aorist. Tychicus could have been the bearer of this letter. "He had already carried Paul's letters to the Ephesian (and Colossian) church and remained to tell them how Paul was doing (Acts 20:4; Eph 6:21; Col 4:7; Titus 3:12). Paul calls him a beloved brother, a faithful servant (Eph 6:21), and a fellow slave in the Lord (Col 4:7)." Mounce.

Verse 13

τὸν φαιλόνην, ὃν ἀπέλιπον ἐν Τρῷάδι παρὰ Κάρπῷ, ἐρχόμενος φέρε, καὶ τὰ βιβλία, μάλιστα τὰς μεμβράνας.

φαιλονης, ου m cloak

Some commentators think that the word here means a *satchel* in which books/documents might be kept and transported. Hendriksen argues that it is a form of cloak: "A kind of blanket of course wool that was used as an outer garment to protect against the cold and the rain. It had a hole in the middle for the head to pass through. There were no sleeves." Mounce comments, "It is assumed that he asks for the cloak because he is cold or in anticipation of the coming winter (v 21)."

ἀπελιπον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl ἀπολειπω leave behind

Τρφας, αδος f Troas παρα with φερω bring, carry, bear, lead

φερω bring, carry, bear, lead βιβλιον, ου n book, scroll

Probably scrolls of Scripture

μαλιστα especially μεμβρανα, ης f parchment

Maybe writing materials so that Paul could continue his correspondence.

Verse 14

Αλέξανδρος ό χαλκεὺς πολλά μοι κακὰ ἐνεδείξατο – ἀποδώσει αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος κατὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ –

χαλκευς, εως m coppersmith, metal worker

πολυς, πολλη, πολυ gen πολλου, ης, ου i) much, many ii) πολλα many things κακος, η, ον evil, bad, wrong

Alexander may have acted as a witness against Paul at the legal hearing mentioned in v. 16. He may have been instrumental in Paul's arrest. Most think he was the same person excommunicated in 1 Tim 1:20.

ένεδείξατο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 s ένδεικνυμαι show, do

Can be used in the legal sense of 'inform against.'

ἀποδωσει Verb, fut act indic, 3 s ἀποδιδωμι give, pay, render, repay

Cf. the contrasting use of this verb in v 8.

Verse 15

ον καὶ σὺ φυλάσσου, λίαν γὰρ ἀντέστη τοῖς ἡμετέροις λόγοις.

φυλασσω keep, guard; midd guard against, avoid

If Alexander had been instrumental in Paul's arrest, Paul wants Timothy to watch lest a similar thing should happen to him.

λιαν adv exceedingly, greatly ἀντέστη Verb, perf act indic, 3 s ἀνθιστημι resist, oppose, withstand ἡμετερος, α, ον Our

Verse 16

Έν τῆ πρώτη μου ἀπολογία οὐδείς μοι παρεγένετο, ἀλλὰ πάντες με ἐγκατέλιπον – μὴ αὐτοῖς λογισθείη –

πρωτος, η, ον first, earlier $\dot{\alpha}$ πολογια, ας f verbal defence, defence

"Most modern writers see this first defence as the Roman *prima actio*, a public, preliminary hearing designed to gather basic information, which, if necessary, would be followed by a trial." Mounce.

οὐδεις, οὐδεμια, οὐδεν no one, nothing παραγινομαι come, arrive, appear

It may have been fear that prevented any standing by Paul to speak in his defence.

πάντες Adjective, m nom pl πας ἐγκατέλιπον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl ἐγκαταλειπω see v.10 λογιζομαι reckon, count, credit

Verse 17

ό δὲ κύριός μοι παρέστη καὶ ἐνεδυνάμωσέν με, ἵνα δι' ἐμοῦ τὸ κήρυγμα πληροφορηθῆ καὶ ἀκούσωσιν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἐρρύσθην ἐκ στόματος λέοντος.

παρέστη Verb, 2 aor act indic, 3 s παριστημι and παριστανω stand before/by; provide

ἐνδυναμοω strengthen, make strong κηρυγμα, τος n what is preached, message, proclamation

πληροφορηθῆ Verb, aor pass subj, 3 s
 πληροφορεω accomplish, proclaim fully ἔθνη Noun, nom & acc pl ἐθνος, ους n nation, people; τα ἐ. Gentiles

Hendriksen links these words with his view that, after Paul's first imprisonment and the hearing spoken of in these verses, he was released for a while and was able to preach the Gospel in Gentile areas to the west of Rome – even as far as Spain (cf. Rom 15:24,28). Mounce thinks that the defence mentioned was not Paul's previous imprisonment and trial (see above). Hence he argues that Paul is seeing the whole of his ministry brought to its designed conclusion in the declaration of the gospel before the authorities in Rome (cf. Acts 9:15; 23:11).

έρρύσθην Verb, aor pass indic, 1 s ΄ρυομαι save, rescue στομα, τος n mouth λεων, οντος m lion

Hendriksen suggests that this may be an idiomatic expression for escaping from the jaws of death rather than implying that Paul was literally in danger of being thrown to lions

Mounce suggests the situation referred to is as follows: "Paul made his defence at a preliminary hearing and instead of being condemned to immediate death was given a temporary reprieve, allowing sufficient time for Timothy to travel to Rome. It was also a victory in that Paul proclaimed the gospel in the Roman courts and received a somewhat positive hearing. It is this event that Paul terms a rescue from the lion's mouth. This does not mean that Paul believes he will be freed. He knows he is going to die (vv 6-8), and the temporary rescue (ἐρρυσθην, 'was rescued') enjoyed now looks forward to the rescue (ὑυσεται, 'will rescue' [v 18]) that will take him into God's heavenly kingdom. Paul does not envisage a rescue to freedom and extended earthly ministry."

Verse 18

ρύσεταί με ὁ κύριος ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔργου πονηροῦ καὶ σώσει εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν αὐτοῦ τὴν ἐπουράνιον· ὧ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων, ἀμήν.

ρύσεταί Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 s ρυομαι save, rescue, deliver πονηρος, α, ον evil, bad, wicked

Cf. v 14.

σωζω save, rescue, heal ἐπουρανιος, ον heavenly, celestial

"Perhaps it is intended to contrast with the earthly kingdom whose rulers will soon have Paul executed. The emperor, a 'lion,' has his kingdom and is soon to condemn Paul; God will save Paul for the true heavenly kingdom. The implicit comparison of both kings and kingdoms seems intentional." Mounce.

δοξα, ης f glory αἰῶνας Noun, acc pl αἰων, αἰωνος m age, world order, eternity

Verse 19

Άσπασαι Πρίσκαν καὶ Ἀκύλαν καὶ τὸν Όνησιφόρου οἶκον.

ἄσπασαι Verb, aor midd dep imperat, 2 s ἀσπαζομαι greet

Having previously returned to Rome (Rom 16:3-4), Priscilla and Aquila had now evidently returned to Ephesus, perhaps to help Timothy.

For Onesiphorus, cf. 2 Tim 1:16-18. "Some suggest Onesiphorus died after leaving Paul, and therefore he could not be greeted directly." Mounce.

οίκος, ου m house, household, family

Verse 20

Έραστος ἔμεινεν ἐν Κορίνθῳ, Τρόφιμον δὲ ἀπέλιπον ἐν Μιλήτῳ ἀσθενοῦντα.

ἔμεινεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s μενω remain, stay

ἀπολειπω leave behind

ἀσθενεω be sick, be ill, be weak

The language suggests "that these two men had been accompanying Paul but have stopped along the way. It is not clear whether this happened before or after Paul's arrest."

Mounce.

Verse 21

Σπούδασον πρὸ χειμῶνος ἐλθεῖν. Ἀσπάζεταί σε Εὔβουλος καὶ Πούδης καὶ Λίνος καὶ Κλαυδία καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ πάντες.

σπούδασον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s σπουδαζω see v. 9

χειμων, ωνος m winter, bad weather

During winter, few ships would sail on the open sea because of the bad weather. "The urgency may also be related to Paul's need for his cloak (v 13) and the timing of the trial." Mounce.

έλθεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἐρχομαι ἀσπαζομαι see v.19 σε Pronoun, acc s συ

The names are probably those of leaders of the church in Rome who were known to Timothy.

πάντες Adjective, m nom pl πας

Verse 22

Ό κύριος μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματός σου. ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν.

Note the change from the second person singular to the plural, from personal wish to one directed at the whole Ephesian church.

χαρις, ιτος f grace, unmerited favour

"If the traditional historical reconstruction of the PE is correct, then these are the final recorded words written by Paul, apostle to the Gentiles. God's grace overflowed in his life with the faith and love that were in Christ Jesus (1 Tim 1:14). He lived a life characterised by the grace of God calling sinful men and women to Christ by faith. And he ends his ministry having fulfilled his calling (2 Tim 4:6-7) with $\chi \alpha \rho \iota \varsigma$, 'grace,' on his lips." Mounce.