

LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT DAY

Background:

Paul had spent time in prison at Philippi, at Caesarea, at Jerusalem and at Rome. His first time at Rome was one of the longest 'stretches' that Paul spent in prison yet it was a very lenient experience. Friends came and went and he wrote prolifically there. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon were all written during his first Roman imprisonment. After his release, Paul spent time possibly visiting Ephesus, Macedonia, Nicopolis, Crete, Miletus, Troas and Spain according to his letters. For about six years Paul moved about freely while knowing that he was a marked man. Finally, Nero had enough of the 'secret societies', which in his mind included the church. After he burned Rome and put the blame on Christians, Paul was re-arrested and in his final imprisonment he wrote what have been called the pastoral epistles, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus.

While Paul was in prison he looked forward to a special day. It was not the day of his release but the day of his promotion from earth to glory.

I-We should not Be Ashamed- v.8

Paul's concern was that we not be ashamed....

- A. About being a Christian, a believer in Christ.
- B. In verse 8 he told Timothy and us to not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner.
 - 1. Do we have no testimony to give of Him?
 - 2. Is He not a merciful master?
 - 3. Is He not a satisfying Savior?
 - 4. Our testimony is that which we have experienced of Him, not what we have read about Him.
- C. That could only happen if we are not His, if we have not accepted His salvation.
- D. It could happen if we do not lead a holy life- v.9

II-We should not be Asleep-

In Mark 13:36, as Jesus taught of the imminent arrival of 'that day', He says 'If He comes suddenly, do not let Him find you sleeping.'

- A. Paul's attitude was that he had work to do.
 - 1. Appointed a herald, a messenger sent by their king.
 - 2. Having accepted the gospel, he was now committed to the service of the gospel.
 - 3. In Mark 13, each servant had an assigned task.
 - 4. That 'day' should not catch us slumbering.

B-Paul's attitude also says to have zeal for the work.

C-He had a debt to pay.

D-Paul had a goal in mind, it was that day.

III-We should not be Adrift-

Paul told Timothy that we have no need to worry or to seek less turbulent waters because we are anchored.

A-Kept- 'I know whom I have believed...'

1-Paul is dogmatic-

2-Romans 8:35-39: This love will keep us without controversy.

B-Paul speaks of a rich treasure that he has and he entrust it to a reliable person to keep it.

1-It cannot always be said that the believer knows; What will happen in our life; or

When the blessings or trials will come; Where our life will lead us in this world; Whether we will always be faithful; or Why the trials or difficulties will come.

2-Paul reminds us that we know Whom will keep us unto and in that day!

That is the essential as we look forward to 'that day'.