**R965 Rumination for July 23, 2023**

The **T**heme: **Four Men in II Timothy Four** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

**The Text:** *Beware lest any man spoil you…after the tradition of men… and not after Christ.* Col. 2:8

The **T**hots:

1. **Paul – He Began Well and Ended Well.** [**Saul** = destroyer; **Paul** = worker] **II Tim. 4:6-8**
2. Saul’s Initi**al** **Q**uestion – *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?* Acts 9:4, 6

Saul acknowledged the Lordship of Christ – *Lord*

1. His **D**ecision concerning the Lordship of Christ. Cf.Rom.10:9, HCSB

*If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is* ***Lord****,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him*

*from the dead, you will be saved.*

1. Paul’s **D**eclaration of the Lordship of Christ. Cf. Jn. 13:13, 14

*Ye call Me Master and* ***Lord****: and ye say well; for so I am.*

1. The **D**emand of the Lordship of Christ. II Tim. 2:19

*The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The* ***Lord*** *knoweth them that are His.*

*And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity*.

1. The **D**eceptions: Warning to…
2. The **D**isobedient – *And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?* Lk. 6:46
3. The **D**eceitful – *When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door,*

*and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us;*

*and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are*: Lk. 13:25

1. The **D**ivided – *Peter said, Not so, Lord…I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean* –

You cannot call Him “*Lord*” and yet say, “*not so*” Acts 10:14

1. Paul’s Continu**al** **Q**uest Phil. 3:8-10 cf. 1:20
2. His **P**riority in Life – *to know Christ*.
3. His **P**reparedness in Life – *To count all things as loss.*
4. His **P**urpose in Life – *to magnify Christ.* Cf. Phil. 1:20
5. His Spiritu**al** **Q**ualities – II Tim. 4:7
6. He **F**ought as a Soldier – *I have a good fight…*

And as a Soldier…

1. ***F****lee* *these things… (the love of money…, the root of all evil…)* II Tim. 6:10, 11
2. ***F****ollow* *after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.* I Tim. 6:11
3. ***F****ight the good fight of faith* I Tim. 6:12
4. Be ***F****urnished unto all good works.* II Tim. 3:17
5. He **F**inished as an Athlete – *I have finished my course.* II Tim. 4:7
6. He was **F**aithful as a Steward – *I have kept the faith.* II Tim. 4:7
7. He was **F**ruitful and He would be Rewarded – *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown.* II Tim. 4:8
8. **Demas** – **Began Well and Ended Badly. [Demas =** popular**]** **II Tim. 4:10**
9. He was Coward**ly** – *forsaken* = left in the lurch.
10. At the Beginning – *Demas*…*my fellowlabour****er****…* Phile. 24
11. Then no **M**ore **M**ention *my* ***fellowlabourer*** – *Luke…and Demas, greet you.* Col. 4:14
12. **D**emas had **D**eserted his fellow-work**er** – *Demas hath forsaken me…* II Tim. 4:10
13. He was World**ly** – A Lover of …
14. **P**ossessions - *For the love of money is the root of all evil* I Tim, 6:10
15. **P**leasures – Ct. *Moses choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God,*

 *than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;* Heb. 11:25

1. **P**opularity - Demas = popular
2. **P**ride – *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,*

*is not of the Father, but is of the world.* cf. I Jn. 2:15-17

1. **P**resent Life. Ct. Paul, a lover of His appearing II Tim. 4:8

*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge,*

*shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

1. **Mark – Began Badly and Ended Well [Mark =** polite shining**] II Tim. 4:11**
2. His **P**ast Failure Acts 13:5, 13

At first: *they had also John* [Mark] *to their minister*. Acts 13:5

Later: *Now when…they came to Perga…John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.* Acts 13:13

1. His **P**resent Condition: *Take Mark…**for he is profitable to me for the ministry* II Tim. 4:11
2. His **P**rospective Honour – he was the writer of Mark’s Gospel.
3. His **P**erennial Lesson: - the way home is always open to the backslider. Cf. Peter & Jonah.
4. **Alexander – Began Badly and Ended Badly [Alexander =** the helper of men] **II Tim. 4:14, 15**
5. His **P**osition in the Matter – *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil*  4:14a
6. His **P**unishment by God – *the Lord reward him according to his works:* 4:14b
7. His **P**eril to Believers – *Of whom be thou* (be*)ware* 4:15a

*Sworn to yield, to waver, never; consecrated, born again;*

 *Sworn to be Christ’s soldiers ever, O for Christ at least be men! Arthur C. Coxe*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 965**

1. *Be alert, stand firm in the faith,* ***act like a man****, be strong*. I Cor. 16:13, HCSB

*Then we will* ***no longer be little children****, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching,* *by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.* Eph. 4:14, HCSB

Paul exhorted the believers in Corinth to act like men in contrast to behaving like children as he wrote to the Ephesian saints. He wanted the Corinthian believers to be matured in their faith and not tossed about with every wind of doctrine or teaching *by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.*

What kind of a man, or for all that matters, what kind of a woman are you?

In II Timothy chapter four, Paul mentioned four types of people – how they began their Christian faith, how they progressed in it and finally how they ended it.

**Demas** started well. He served so well with Paul so much so, that Paul even regarded him as his fellowlabourer. Yet later, when Paul was imprisoned and awaiting his sentence, Demas deserted and dumped him. He loved the present world for its pleasures. He could not stand the persecutions that came with his witness for the Lord. He not only deserted his comrade-in-arms, Paul, but also His Lord! He began well, but he ended badly.

**Mark** also started well. John (as he was known then, Mk. 13:5b) volunteered to minister to Paul and Barnabas when they set out on their first missionary journey to Cyprus and Salamis. But later for some unknown reason he left them in the lurch when they needed him most. It is not stated precisely why he left, but he did. And just as we do not know the real reason for which he left them, somehow, he was later reconciled to Paul and visited him when the latter was in prison. Paul even acknowledged that Mark “*is profitable to me for the ministry”* (II Tim. 4:11). Mark started well, faltered on the way, but returned to a profitable ministry at the end.

**Alexander** had a bad record – from the very beginning to the very end. Paul had this to say of him – *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.* (II Tim. 4:14-15). His relationship with Paul and his compatriots had been bad even from the very beginning, and it continued to the very end. Paul had to warn the saints of his evil intentions and actions - the Lord Himself would deal with him accordingly.

Finally, we have **Paul** himself – There is nothing much we need to say of him. His very testimony at the end of his life spoke volumes – He started well, went on in life well, acknowledging the Lordship of Christ, and surrendering his life to his Lord at the end of it all. Yes, he ended well. Do pay attention to his commitment at every stage of his life and his conviction of what would happen to him at the end. He said:

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.* II Tim. 4:6-8

What kind of a man were you at the beginning, and what kind of a man are you now and what kind of a man will you hope to be at the end – Demas, Mark or Paul? **REFLECT**

1. *Be alert, stand firm in the faith,* ***act like a man****, be strong*. I Cor. 16:13, HCSB

*…no longer* ***be little children****, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.* Eph. 4:14

Ignore the gender, but consider the metaphors used above – are you a Man or a Child?

 **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Be a Man, though a Child, and NOT a Child in a Man!*