

Admonitions for the Independent  
2 Timothy

**I. Occasions of Departure**

**A. Jesus**

1. Acts 1:6-9
2. **Acts 1:6-9 (ESV)** *“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”<sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*
  - a. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes
  - b. You will be my witnesses

**B. Acts 20**

1. Where Paul meets with the elders of the church at Ephesus
  - a. informs them that he is headed to Jerusalem where “imprisonment and afflictions” await him.
  - b. They will not see his face again
2. **Essential admonitions**
  - a. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
  - b. Be alert for fierce wolves that will come among you.
  - c. Pay close attention to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
  - d. Help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

**C. 2 Timothy**

1. Paul’s letter to his protégé while in Rome awaiting execution
2. The message to someone you love deeply in the faith, in whom you have great confidence and entrust the continuance of the ministry you love
  - a. There are many instruction and encouragements
    - (1) For boldness
    - (2) Endurance
    - (3) Faithfulness in the face of false teaching
  - b. **Personal admonitions (5)**
    - (1) **2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)** *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,*
      - (a) Remember from our study in 1 Corinthians that every one of you who belong to Jesus and in whom

the Spirit of Christ dwells have a gift which God has given

- i) For your personal encouragement in the faith
- ii) For the advancement of God's mission in the world
- iii) For the edification of your brothers and sisters, the church of God purchased with the blood of Christ

(b) The gifts of the Spirit are given to be used for the glory of God and the good of the body.

(c) Do not sit idly by and let the glory fade and the good disappear.

(2) **2 Timothy 1:8-9 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,***

(a) Lawlessness abounds and few show any real interest in the claims of Christ on their lives

(b) Be bold for Christ

i) Among those who seem hostile or indifferent are some who are desperate for a reality beyond their experience

ii) There are some whom God is calling to faith through the gospel that resounds in your heart

iii) Be the occasion when a lost world hears the message of God's grace in Jesus Christ

(3) **2 Timothy 1:13-14 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> *Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.***

(a) There is a growing trend to abandon Scripture and the biblical tradition that has been a part of our culture for generations

i) This is not a new development

ii) History reveals cycles of depravity and revival in the human experience as God sovereignly brings this world to its appointed conclusion

(b) Dig into God's word and follow through on sound doctrine

(4) **2 Timothy 1:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> *By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.***

(a) You are entrusted with a treasure

- i) The knowledge of God through the gospel
    - ii) Freedom and forgiveness through faith
    - iii) The Holy Spirit, God Himself, in power and glory
  - (b) Guard it, keep watch over it, do not relinquish or abandon it
- (5) **2 Timothy 2:8 (ESV) Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,**
  - (a) Make your life about Jesus
  - (b) Jettison sin
    - i) Lust,
    - ii) anger,
    - iii) arrogance,
    - iv) neglect,
    - v) grudges
  - (c) Jesus laid down his life for you on the cross
  - (d) Lay down your life for Him
    - i) Identify the lawlessness in your heart and life and repent
    - ii) Finding God's gracious forgiveness in Christ, live differently according to the teaching of the word in the power of the Spirit
    - iii) Commit to the everyday battle against lawlessness in your heart, your life, and your world.

**D. Fight the Good Fight (2 Timothy 4:7)**

1. The principal fight of the Christian is with the world, the flesh and the devil.
  - a. He must fight the flesh.
    - (1) Even after conversion he carries within him a nature prone to evil and a heart weak and unstable as water.
    - (2) That heart will never be free from imperfection in this world, and it is a miserable delusion to expect it.
    - (3) To keep that heart from going astray, the Lord Jesus bids us, "Watch and pray."
      - (a) The spirit may be ready, but the flesh is weak.
      - (b) There is need of a daily struggle and a daily wrestling in prayer.
      - (c) "I keep under my body," cries St. Paul, "and bring it into subjection."
        - i) "I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity."

- ii) "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
- iii) "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."
- iv) "Mortify . . . your members which are upon the earth"

b. He must fight the world.

- (1) The subtle influence of that mighty enemy must be daily resisted, and without a daily battle can never be overcome.
- (2) The love of the world's good things, the fear of the world's laughter or blame, the secret desire to keep in with the world, the secret wish to do as others in the world do, and not to run into extremes—all these are spiritual foes which beset the Christian continually on his way to heaven and must be conquered.
  - (a) "The friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
  - (b) "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
  - (c) "The world is crucified to me, and I unto the world."
  - (d) "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world."
  - (e) "Be not conformed to this world"

c. He must fight the devil.

- (1) That old enemy of mankind is not dead.
- (2) Ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve he has been "going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it," and striving to compass one great end—the ruin of man's soul.
  - (a) Never slumbering and never sleeping, he is always going about as a lion seeking whom he may devour.
  - (b) An unseen enemy, he is always near us, about our path and about our bed, and spying out all our ways.
  - (c) A murderer and a liar from the beginning, he labors night and day to cast us down to hell.
    - i) Sometimes by leading into superstition,
    - ii) sometimes by suggesting infidelity,
    - iii) sometimes by one kind of tactics and sometimes by another,
    - iv) he is always carrying on a campaign against our souls.
  - (d) "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." This mighty adversary must be daily resisted if we wish to be saved.
  - (e) But "this kind goeth not out" but by watching and praying and fighting and putting on the whole armor of God.
  - (f) The strong man armed will never be kept out of our hearts without a daily battle

2. Remember Jesus
  - a. Who died and rose again
  - b. Who defeated death and the devil
  - c. Who won the battle against the flesh and the world
  - d. Who extends the power of His life to you as you believe in him, trust Him, and walk by faith in Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**E. While I am gone, I have one great hope and desire for you all, that you will indulge in God as you never have before, proving Him faithful and true, and worthy of faith and obedience.**