

Paul's Final Words

Introduction: Saying goodbye is difficult. It's a universal human experience and it hurts.

I) Paul suffered to get the gospel to the Gentiles -*Acts 9:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.*

II) The time for Paul's *departure* had come.

- A) To hoist anchor and set sail.
- B) Take down a tent -*2 Corinthians 5:1-4.*
- C) Loosing a prisoner or unyoking an ox.

III) He had fought the good fight, run the race -*1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 1:6-7; Romans 15:20-21.*

IV) Then Paul looks ahead v8.

- A) Righteousness from faith is available to all -*Genesis 15:6.* That is all who desire His return -*Matthew 24:45.*
- B) Paul forgives -*Acts 7:59-60.*
- C) He is strengthened to speak -*Acts 24:25.*

V) Thoughts for us -*2 Timothy 3:1-5.*

- A) God controls authorities -*Dan 2:20-22.*
- B) Things will get worse -*Mark 13:8.*
- C) ... Much worse -*Mark 13:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:3.*
- D) What we must know -*2 Tim 3:12-13.*
- E) What we must do -*v14-7.*

Conclusion: Paul's last words remind us to cling to God and His Word and be subject to them. That will equip us for anything the future holds, just as it did Paul, up to the day he departed for eternity.

When we do, we too can look forward to a [crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award us on that Day.](#)