

Paul's Last Words on the Word

2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:8



Apostle Paul (~ 5 – 67 A.D.)
By Andrei Rublev (1410)

Paul's Last Words on the Word Introduction



Paul's Last Words on the Word

Introduction

- Paul knew that his life and ministry were coming to a close.
- The letter of **2 Timothy** is the last communication we have from him before he died.
- He wrote it to his closest apprentice.

Paul's Last Words on the Word

Introduction

- The passage we look at today gives us Paul's perspective on what is most important for
 - A Christian
 - A Pastor
 - A Church
- Paul will place a high priority on Scripture for our success.

Paul's Last Words on the Word Introduction

Oh, cling you to Scripture. Scripture is not Christ, but it is the silken clue which will lead you to him. Follow its leadings faithfully.

*– Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892),
London pastor/evangelist*



Paul's Last Words on the Word

Introduction

1. Be Aware 3:10-13
2. Be Equipped 3:14-17
3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5
4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8

1. Be Aware 3:10-13

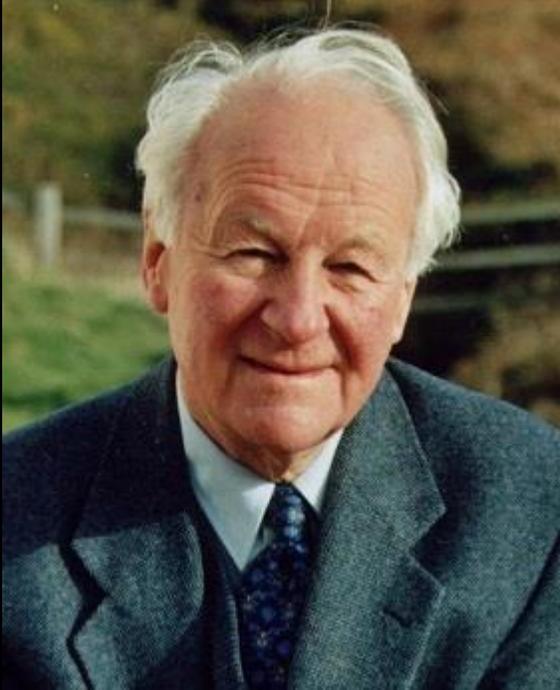
1. Be Aware 3:10-13

- **3:10** Paul sets his own example before Timothy as something Timothy knew personally.
- **3:11** The place names are from Timothy's home territory.

1. Be Aware 3:10-13

- 3:12 The Least Popular Promise in the Bible?

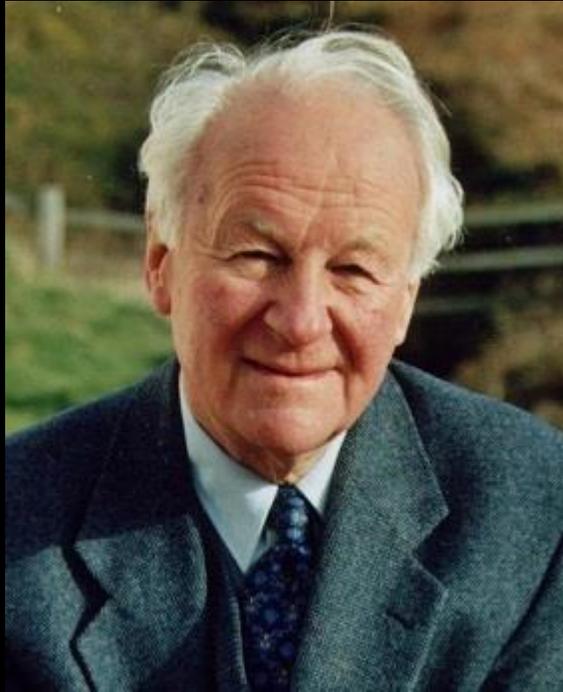
1. Be Aware 3:10-13



Those who are in Christ but not in the world are not persecuted, because they do not come into contact and therefore into collision with their potential persecutors. Those who are in the world but not in Christ are also not persecuted, because the world sees nothing in them to persecute.

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011), pastor
All Souls, Langham Place, London*

1. Be Aware 3:10-13



The former escape persecution by withdrawal from the world, the latter by assimilation to it. It is only for those who are both in the world and in Christ simultaneously that persecution becomes inevitable.

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011), pastor
All Souls, Langham Place, London*

1. Be Aware 3:10-13

- **3:13** go on from bad to worse
- Literally: “Making progress in the direction of the worse”.
- Their movement has an intentional quality to it, but it is entirely in the wrong direction.
- **Deceiving and being deceived** They surround themselves with falsehood and so are unable to see the truth.

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

- 3:14 Timothy simply needed to stay on his present path.
- In 1:5 Paul highlighted that Timothy's sincere faith was received from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

- 3:15 childhood or even “infancy” as in the NIV.
- Timothy’s grandmother and mother made it a point to teach Timothy the Bible.

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

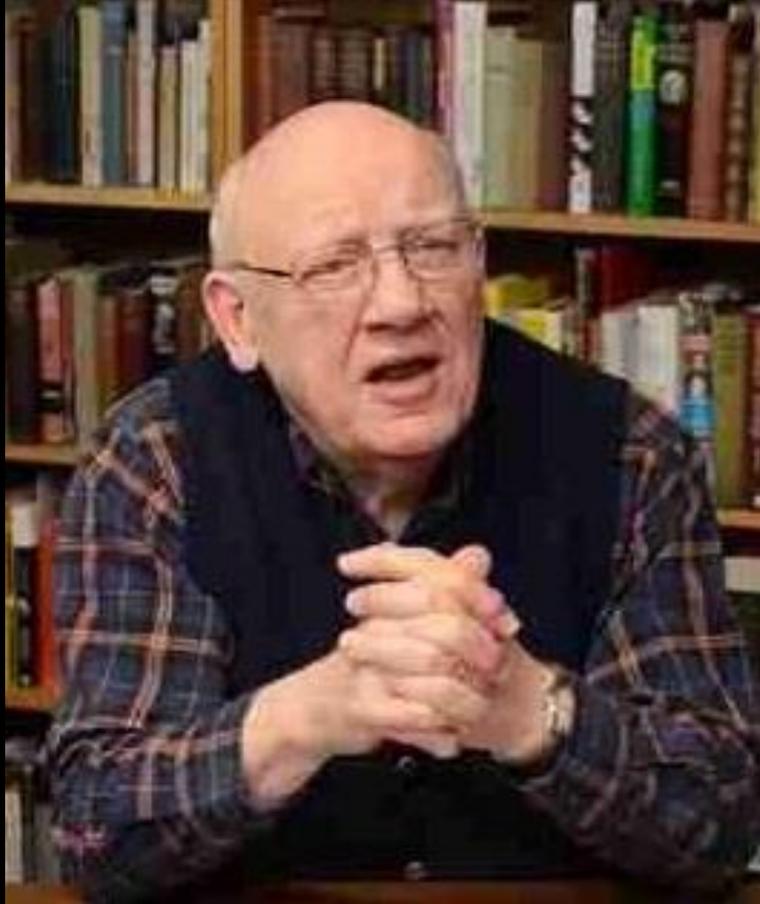
- 3:16 “breathed out by God” is one word *theopneustos* in the original.
- Literally, “God-breathed” as in the NIV.

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

- 2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

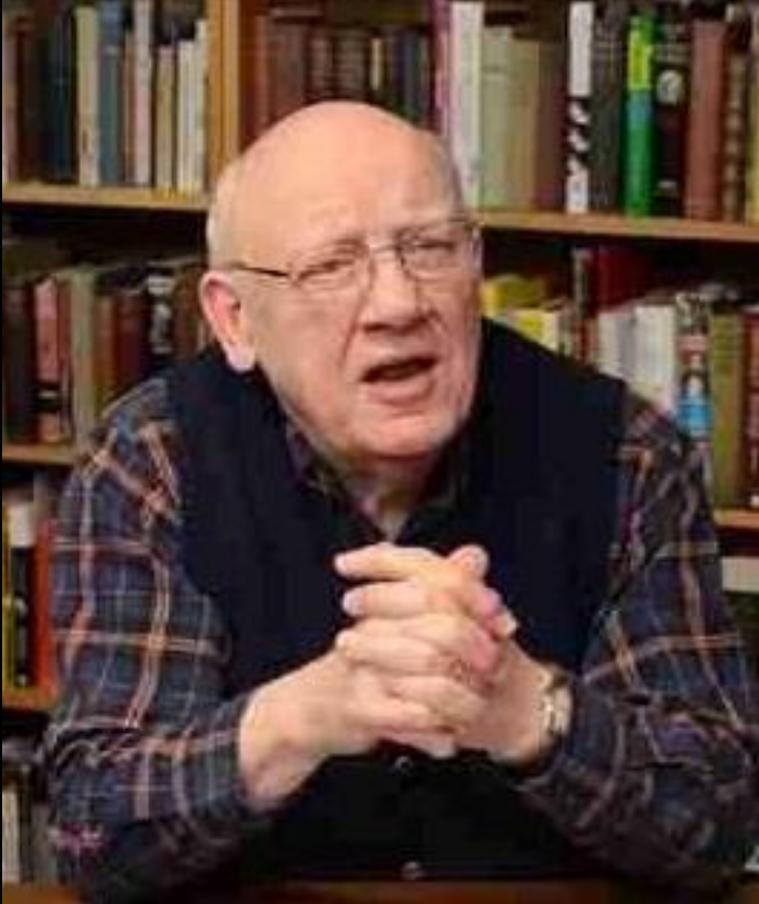


The Holy Spirit of God used men of God to write the Word of God. The Spirit did not erase the natural characteristics of the writers. In fact, God in His providence prepared the writers for the task of writing the Scriptures ...

– Warren Wiersbe

2. Be Equipped

3:14-17



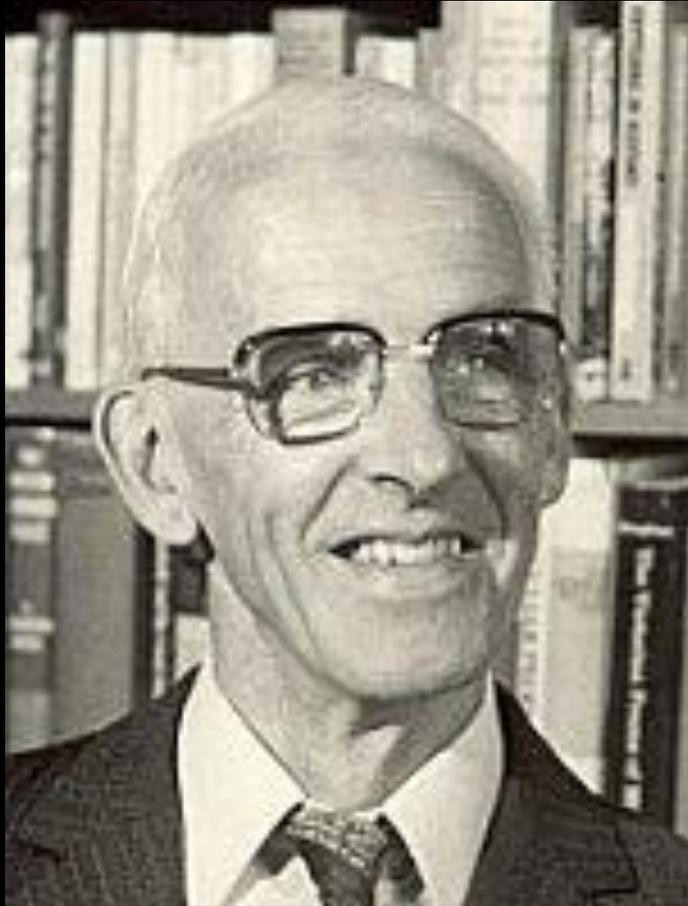
Each writer has his own distinctive style and vocabulary. Each book of the Bible grew out of a special set of circumstances ... What we mean by biblical inspiration is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the Bible's writers, which guaranteed that what they wrote was accurate and trustworthy.

– Warren Wiersbe

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17

- **3:16** The Bible gives us understanding in four ways:
 1. **Teaching** = to learn what is right
 2. **Reproof** = and what is not right
 3. **Correction** = to learn how to get right
 4. **Training in righteousness** = and how to stay right

2. Be Equipped 3:14-17



The Christian minister has in his hands a God-given instrument designed to equip him completely for his work.

*– Donald Guthrie (1916 – 1992),
London Bible College*

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

- 4:1 I charge you ... In an already serious letter, Paul makes this point even more seriously.

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5



Paul constantly speaks of the return of Jesus Christ as a glorious day when his reign will be fully manifested (4:1a). In light of this coming day, he issues a solemn charge to Timothy, that is, a solemn declaration before witnesses as in a legal case where God the Father is the judge and Jesus the lawyer (4:1b).

*– Solomon Andria,
Madagascan Bible Commentator*

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

- 4:2 Preach the word If you have the responsibility to teach others, please do all of the following:

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

- 4:2 Preach the word If you have the responsibility to teach others, please do all of the following:
 1. Stay faithful to the Scriptures.
 2. Communicate the Gospel clearly.
 3. Emphasize Jesus Christ.

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

- 4:2 Preach the word If you have the responsibility to teach others, please do all of the following:
 1. Stay faithful to the Scriptures.
 2. Communicate the Gospel clearly.
 3. Emphasize Jesus Christ.
- Let's also be supportive of those who do these things.

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

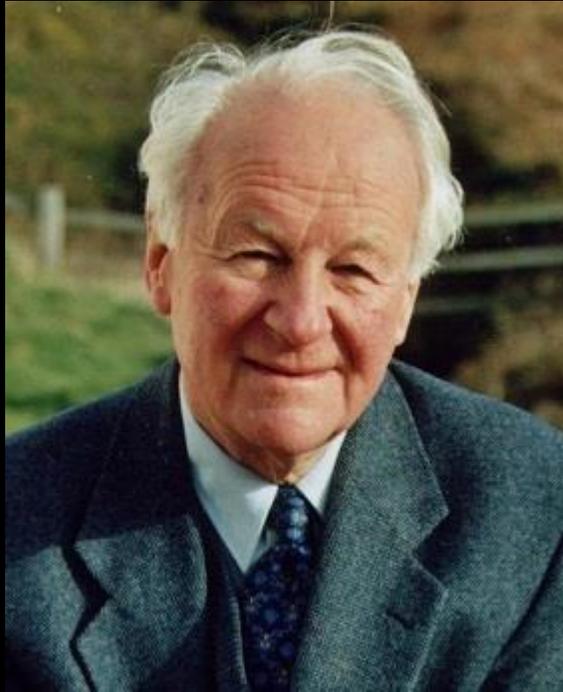
- 4:3 they have itching ears
- Clement of Alexandria describes some teachers as *“scratching and tickling ... the ears of those who eagerly desire to be scratched”*
- Seneca says: *“Some come to hear, not to learn, just as we go to the theatre, for pleasure, to delight our ears with the speaking or the voice or the plays”*

– From M.R. Vincent,
Word studies in the New Testament (1887)

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5

- 4:3 They will accumulate for themselves teachers
- Mass media has had a mixed effect on Christian discipleship.
- In Timothy's day teachers gathered disciples
- In our day “disciples” can gather, or “accumulate,” teachers to tickle their ears.

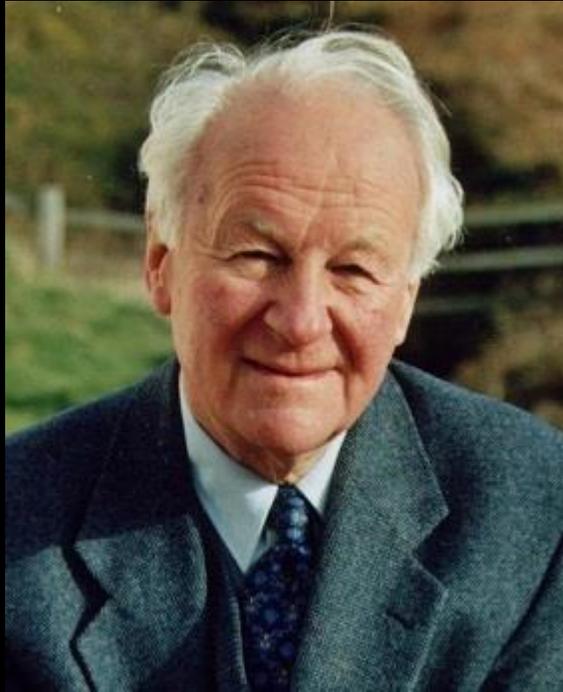
3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5



Those difficult days, in which it was hard to gain a hearing for the gospel, were not to discourage Timothy; nor to deter him from his ministry; nor to induce him to trim his message to suit his hearers ...

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011), pastor
All Souls, Langham Place, London*

3. Fulfill Your Ministry 4:1-5



... but rather to spur him on to preach the more. It should be the same with us. The harder the times and the deafer the people, the clearer and more persuasive our proclamation must be.

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011), pastor
All Souls, Langham Place, London*

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8

- 4:6 The image of a “drink offering” may be a hint at the pouring out of Paul’s blood.
- Roman citizens facing execution were usually beheaded.

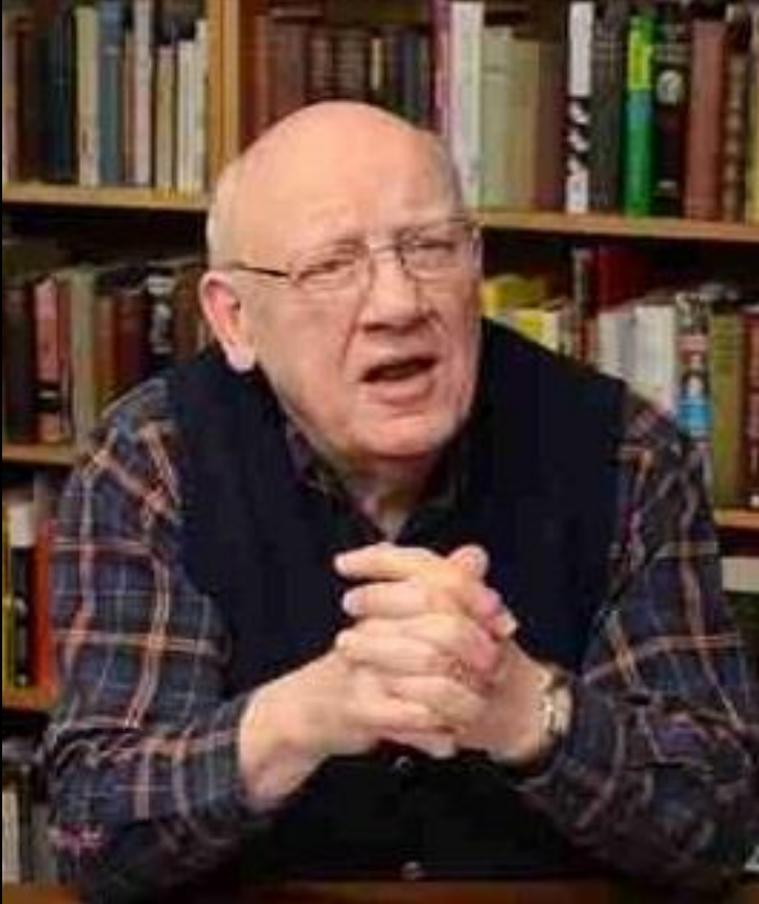
4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8

- Paul was certain that his death was near.
- History tells us that he died within a year of this writing.
- Paul's thirty years of faithful ministry ended with his execution.

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8

- Paul is handing Timothy the baton, and encouraging him to run with endurance to the end.
- The apostle is now looking forward to his prize – “the crown of righteousness.”

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8



The crown of righteousness is God's reward for a faithful and righteous life; and our incentive for faithfulness and holiness is the promise of the Lord's appearing. Because Paul loved His appearing and looked for it, he lived righteously and served faithfully.

– Warren Wiersbe

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8

- We may think it is childish to work for a prize.
- Worse yet, we may feel insincere, like those who only serve God for the reward that he promises.
- But this need not be the case.

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8



We shouldn't be so high-minded as to imagine that the only valid kind of Christian spirituality is that of pure disinterested love of God. Love isn't like that anyway ...

*– N. T. Wright,
Anglican Bishop of Durham*

4. Finish Your Race 4:6-8



When you love someone, part of the “reward” is the joy of being able to do things with and for them, and of being loved by them in return.

*– N. T. Wright,
Anglican Bishop of Durham*

Paul's Last Words on the Word Conclusions



Paul's Last Words on the Word

Conclusions



Paul knew that he was not only responsible for imparting head knowledge or theories but also had to set an example of how to live by the truths he taught. The same is true for each of us who is in a position where we may influence others – whether as a Bible teacher, pastor, parent, employer or friend.

*– Solomon Andria,
Madagascan Bible Commentator*

Paul's Last Words on the Word

Conclusions

- How does our commitment to the Scriptures apply to each of these areas?
 1. A member of a family
 2. A citizen or neighbor to others
 3. A good worker, whatever our job may be
 4. A Christian and part of a local church

Paul's Last Words on the Word

Conclusions

- **Hebrews 12:1-2** (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Paul's Last Words on the Word

Conclusions

- Let's commit to running our own race with hope and perseverance.
- And let's make faithfulness to God's word our deepest, undying commitment.

Paul's Last Words on the Word Conclusions

Beloved, the Lord teach us to read his book of life which he has opened before us here below, so that we may read our titles clear in that other book of love which we have not seen as yet, but which will be opened at the last great day. The Lord be with you, and bless you.

*– Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892),
London pastor/evangelist*

