

2nd Timothy
Chapter 4:6-22

“Analisis [an-al'-oo-sis]!”

All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid
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At the time of this writing, Paul was in prison for the second time in Rome. Unlike his first imprisonment which was really a house arrest, this time he was afforded no special privileges.

He was being held in the Mamertine Prison ... a dark, damp place that you can still visit today in Rome. Really nothing more than a place to hold those who were awaiting execution ... so the prisoners there were considered dead men.

That's the physical circumstance of the backdrop for this letter.

Q. But what about Paul's emotional and spiritual state? What would it be like to be on death row with all appeals exhausted, all rights stripped away and ... no idea when your execution was coming?

That's how it worked ... they didn't set a date ... they just came and got you, laid your head on a chopping block, stretched out your neck and then caught your head in a basket when the executioner swung his axe.

Q. What a state of mind Paul must have been in ... huh? – Well actually, his state of mind is captured by the Greek word he uses in **verse 6** ... analisis (an-al'-oo-sis) [ana-loosis]. A state of mind that I pray a few of us might capture before the day's up.

So, let's listen in on the closing remarks of Paul's lifetime ...

Verses 6: The Drink Offering is one of those Old Testament sacrifices prescribed in **Leviticus chapter 23**.

It was usually offered in conjunction with a Burnt Offering (**Leviticus chapter 1**) or Peace Offering (**Leviticus chapter 2**) and it was typically an offering of wine.

Now the **Burnt Offering** was an offering of consecration ... the sacrifice being reduced to ashes to symbolize the Lord's consumption of it.

On the other hand, the **Peace Offering** was known as a fellowship offering. It was a BBQ with God. An offering of fellowship with God.

But of them all, the **Drink Offering** was the most representative of sacrifice (**Exodus 29**

& Numbers 15). When the Drink Offering was given to the Lord ... there wasn't even a pile of ashes to point to ... it was poured out on the dry desert floor and disappeared in seconds. No trace ... no remains ... just gone. Poured out entirely to the Lord. Given to Him with absolute abandonment of self.

But perhaps the most important aspect of this offering, as it relates to this morning's text, is that it was an offering of wine ... because wine always symbolizes ... JOY!

Paul wasn't just being poured out ... he was being joyfully poured out.

And then he says, "**the time of my departure has come.**" And this is where we find that word, analysis (an-al'-oo-sis) [ana-loosis] that I mentioned.

Paul understood physical death. He knew that dying didn't mean the cessation of existence ... but rather, the departure from this earth.

Analysis (an-al'-oo-sis) [ana-loosis] is an interesting word that means, something that was stuck or bound ... being liberated. In Jewish writings it's sometimes used to describe:

1. The moment a seed is set free from its pod ... the instant that the wind picks it up and whisks it away to its own place.
2. It can be used to describe a ship being set free from its moorings or taking up its anchor.
3. And it's been used to describe the unyoking of an ox after a long, hard day of plowing.

It speaks, not of leaving, but of being set free ... unburdened or liberated.

Q. And if you listen you can really hear how anxious Paul was for this? – He's about to find out what he's really been made for. He's finally going to experience what it's all been about. He's about to depart this world and enter the next.

I think it's natural ... even healthy for us to have a degree of anxiety over our departure from this world. Sure, we look forward to it, but we also shun and postpone it ... almost reflexively.

Q. And you stop and think ... what if I were in a situation similar to Paul's? What if I knew my execution was imminent? What if you knew they might come and get you at any moment and put your head in a basket?

When the Dutch Christian hero of the Holocaust, Corrie Ten Boom was a little girl, she asked her father "What will I do if they come for me? How will I withstand it?" Her father, a wise man, said "Corrie, God's grace will be sufficient for you."

Corrie thought for a moment and said, “But, father, I don’t feel like it’s sufficient.” To which her father responded, “When I send you to the store Corrie ... when do I give you the money for what’s needed?” “Right before I leave” she answered with a look of enlightenment. Her father closed the conversation, by reminding her, “And that’s when you will find God’s grace to be sufficient ... just when you need it.”

Paul was an incredible man, but the power we see in him ... the poise we read about ... are not to the glory of some great man ... rather, they’re to the glory of a great God flowing through a surrendered, but fallen man just like you and just like me.

Now ... remember that the overall theme of this letter is Christian fruitfulness. Being a one-hundred-fold fruit-bearer to God’s glory.

So, once again Paul encouraging us in that, by example, when he says in ...

Verse 7: I have ...

1. Fought the good fight! Not “a” good fight, but “the” good fight, because the only fight that’s good is the one the leads to saved souls.

And even then, it’s not like Paul won every round, but that he fought hard and followed the rules.

He never took his hand off the plow ... he never turned loose of Christ ... so he can also say, “**I have ...**”

2. Finished the course: It’s being a good finisher, not a good starter, that gets credited as lasting Christian fruitfulness.

Q. What respect do you have for those who start a marathon? – Even I could start a marathon only to drop out after a block or two.

But those who actually finish it ... that’s impressive! I’m even more impressed with those who finish it a day and a half after they start ... because the high price they pay is obvious. But there they are ... a finisher!

1st Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

Never quit!

3. Kept the faith: Paul did this, not only by his writings and his teachings,

but by living it out so that men like Timothy would be equipped to pass it along to the next generation without loss or defilement.

All leading up to ...

Verse 8: Paul explained to the Corinthians ...

1st Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work ... remains, he will receive a reward.

And that reward's known as, The Crown of Righteousness. A reward that will be handed out by the Lord Himself ... **to all who have loved His appearing.**

Q. So, who will love His appearing? –

Those who are fighters.

Those who've been running hard with their eyes fixed on the finish line.

Those who are bumped and bruised and weary from the battle.

Those are the ones who are ready to go ... anxiously awaiting His appearing. And Paul says they “**will receive a reward**”.

You know ... this world's nothing but an illusion ... a fleeting breeze that passes quickly and then disappears ... never to return.

But imagine Heaven! Really ... imagine Heaven! It's good for you! It's far more than you could ever imagine ... but try regularly!

Now from here until the end of the book ... you'll notice a shift in Paul's tone. And, although the source is non-biblical, the story is told that between **verses 8 and 9**, Paul was removed from his cell.

No doubt expecting to go to the chopping block ... he was instead taken to a courtroom where he had a brief encounter with Nero himself before being mysteriously returned to his cell.

And many say that's the reason for this shift in Paul's tone. That's interesting because although Paul still seems convinced of his pending execution ... he seems to be thinking that perhaps it's not as imminent as he was hoping. Because in **the last few verses** here ... we see him considering the possibility of another miserable winter there in Rome.

Verse 9-15: So, a couple of requests and a list of names along with Paul's thoughts on their character and integrity.

The first one being ...

Demas: He was Paul's companion and ministry partner for some time ... mentioned affectionately in **Colossians 4:14** and praised as a “**fellow worker**” in **Philemon 24**, but

now he's gone. He chose this world over the Kingdom of God.

Then he mentions **Crescens** ... a man that we otherwise know nothing of, but obviously a faithful and trusted brother.

Titus and **Luke**, of course, we're familiar with.

And then **Mark** ... a nephew to Barnabas and the source of such a significant disagreement between Paul and Barnabas that they split and went separate directions (**Acts 15:37-40**).

And that all started because Mark got scared and deserted Paul on the missionary trail.

So, I love this example of Christian forgiveness and restoration. EVERYBODY deserves a second chance!

The other thing that jumps out to me here is what Paul says about Mark here ... "**he is useful to me for service.**" Other translations say, "**he is profitable to me for the ministry (KJV).**"

Q. Have you ever felt used in the ministry? Like you're just being used for what the ministry can get out of you? – Praise God ... because that's what you were actually made for.

Then we have the faithful and trustworthy **Tychicus** and **Carpus** ... before we come to ... **Alexander**.

A man Paul accuses of vigorously opposing inspired teaching and of doing much harm to Paul personally. Some say that he was actually responsible for Paul's current imprisonment and death sentence.

And yet, despite that ... Paul merely prays for God to minister to Alexander ... whether good or bad.

But at the same time, he separates protectiveness from revenge. He refuses to take revenge on Alexander, but he doesn't hesitate to prescribe protection for Timothy and others.

And then we come to these items that Paul requests. And the list is noteworthy. The cloak is understandable ... he was cold.

Q. But ... why his papyrus books and parchments? These were Paul's personal copies of, at least, portions of the Old Testament and related writings. So, this is a request that's noteworthy in light of Paul's circumstances; imprisoned with a death sentence and no hope of parole.

Paul wouldn't be going back on the missionary trail, he wouldn't be pastoring or holding evangelistic crusades. He wouldn't be doing any of those things ever again.

Q. So why would he so want these writings? – Because Paul understood what you and I need to understand ... our time in God's Word has to be personal.

Yes, we study to prepare ourselves for ministry. Yes, we study to be more available for God's purposes, but if that's the only reason we study, then we're coming up way short of what God has for us.

We get to know the Lord through His Word. We draw close to Him through His Word and we're personally refreshed by His Word. It has to be personal along with being ministry preparation.

It's been rightly said that "You'll know what kind of a man a man is when you see what he does when he doesn't have to do anything." Paul was in prison! He didn't have to do anything.

Verses 16-18: "They all left me ... those that I thought were faithful to the end ... those that had been with me for so long ... they all left me and that really hurt, but through it all, the Lord was faithfully by my side."

Being deserted by man is a painful, but necessary step toward effective ministry. Until you've figured out that God is all you need ... you'll be rendered ineffective by fear, frustration, disappointment, anger and loneliness. Because people ... all people ... WILL fail you.

Which is exactly how God teaches us that all we really need is Him.

Verses 19-22: It seems so appropriate that the Apostle Paul's last recorded words would be this ... grace be with you!

Conclusion: And what a beautiful expression of that grace is this word analysis (an-al'-oo-sis) [ana-loosis]!

It was at The Last Supper that Jesus said He wouldn't drink of the cup again until He drank it anew with all of us, in the Kingdom of God (**Matthew 26:29**).

And in all of the post-resurrection accounts we have ... Jesus ate, but He never drank.

That's a celebration He reserved for the reunion that will take place in Heaven after the Church is caught up in the Rapture. That moment when He carries us over the threshold of the mansion, He's prepared for us (**John 14:3**).

That royal banquet called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (**Revelation 19:6-9**). No longer a table for 13, as at The Last Supper, but a table for billions. And there, as we're

all assembled together, we'll see the Bridegroom lift the cup and toast His Bride, while we raise our cups to toast the Victor.

Analisis (an-al'-oo-sis) [ana-loosis] -- something that was stuck or bound ... being liberated! What a joyous day that will be! And if you're a believer ... then you're going to be there ... I'm going to be there!

I'll remind you one final time that Paul's theme in **2nd Timothy** is fruitfulness. Not only personal fruitfulness, but since Timothy was pastoring the church at Ephesus ... congregational fruitfulness as well.

It's about believers being fruitful all the way to the finish line ... all the way to the final trumpet.

Jeremy Taylor wrote ...

"The solemn thing about time is ... that it can be lost, and time lost can never be regained. It cannot be hoarded; it must be spent. It cannot be postponed; it passes irretrievably. How supremely important then, that we make full use of the time allotted to us for the fulfillment of our life purpose."

We refer to "spending" our lives. We might "spend" our life on an occupation or hobby or some other pursuit. We exchange time for whatever we spend IT on in the same way we exchange cash for whatever we spend IT on.

So, when we say that "we don't have time" for this or that, what we're really saying is that "this or that" isn't worth the expenditure of the time it would cost us. Now that can be a very good thing when it comes to certain endeavors, but too often it makes for a very sad epitaph of a life not spent on what matters.

Time is a God-given stewardship and when we run out of it, like everything else entrusted to us, we will give an account for how well we managed it and what we used it for.

Q. What will you have to show for your expenditure of the time allotted to you?

Q. Are you being poured out? Are you being fruitful to His glory so that you too will love His appearing? That's the message that was on the Apostle Paul's lips as he left this world. Must be important!