Sermon Notes for July 21, 2013

Finding Strength in Times of Need

II Timothy 4:9-22

Introduction
The Apostle Paul knew what it was like to deal with affliction and pain, sorrow and suffering, loneliness and loss.

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” II Corinthians 4:8-9

Where did Paul find his strength in times of need?

I. We find strength in God’s people. II Timothy 4:9-12
In his last days in a Roman prison, Paul felt very much alone. He writes to Timothy asking him to come quickly. “Make haste!”

Some things can’t wait.

Where had everyone else gone?

- Demas had deserted him.
- Crescens and Titus had left to carry the gospel to new areas in Galatia and Dalmatia.
- Tychicus had been sent to Ephesus to relieve Timothy.

Can you imagine how much it would mean to Paul if Timothy, Mark and Luke were with him?

Sometimes people in need feel all alone. Sometimes people stay away because they don’t know what to do or say.

Your presence means so much.

II. We find strength in God’s Word. II Timothy 4:13-15
Paul had need of some personal items that he wanted Timothy to bring with him.

- His cloak – a heavy outer garment.
- His scrolls.
- His parchments – copies of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Paul found great strength in the Word of God.
Kent Hughes notes that there is substantial evidence that he was meditating on Psalm 22, the same Psalm that occupied Jesus at his death.

Paul is confident of God’s faithfulness. He will rescue him and bring him safely home.

III. We find strength in God’s Son. II Timothy 4:16-22

“At my first defense, no one came to my support.”

The statement about Demas is a reminder that friends may fail us or disappoint us.

The statement about Mark is a reminder that people can change. Failure is not final in Christ.

But even the best of friends, even our spouse or children, cannot meet all of our needs.

We need Jesus.

“Everyone deserted me, but the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength.” Verse 17

We need Christ’s presence in our life.

Conclusion

Where do we find strength to meet the challenges we face?

- In the church – God’s people.
- In the promises of Scripture – God’s Word.
- In the presence of Jesus – God’s Son.