

## “Is Your Ship Ready To Sail”

**Text:** 2 Timothy 4:2-8

### **Intro:**

- ⇒ Notice with me what the Apostle Paul says in v. 6.
- Paul makes this statement at the end of his life.
  - Just before he was to beheaded for the cause of Christ.
  - The word “departure” makes one think of a ship ready to set sail.
  - Paul was saying that the end of his life was near.
  - However, his ship was ready to set sail.
  - He was ready to depart this life and go to the next.
  - Why?
  - Because Paul knew that he had some eternal cargo on board to take home to heaven.
  - Just look at what Paul had to say about what was waiting for him when he got to the shores of heaven in v. 8.
  - Let take a look of some of the cargo that Paul had on board to take home to heaven.

### ⇒ **I. Paul’s Cargo**

- **Suffering** –
  - The word of God says in 2 Tim, 2:12, “**If we suffer, we shall also reign with him**”
  - Paul certainly suffered for Christ.
    - **See 2 Cor. 11:21-30**
    - **See 2 Cor. 4:8-11.**
  - Paul said in Phil. 3:10, “**That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**”
- **Soul** –
  - The Apostle Paul was a soul winner.
  - The Bible says, “**he that winneth souls is wise**”
  - Paul would being taken a lot of souls that he won to the Lord to heaven.
  - Notice with me what called those he had won to the Lord in Thessalonica.
    - **See 1 Thess. 2:19-20.**
  - The Bible witnesses to the fact that the Apostle Paul established many New Testament churches in most of the known world at the time.
  - This is evidenced by the Book of Acts and the many epistles or letters Paul wrote to encourage and exhort the churches that he had established.
- **Self- Control**
  - Paul lived a life of self control.
  - Notice the statement that he made in **1 Cor. 9:25-27.**
  - Paul lived a life has self control is further evidence by what he had to say in –

- 1 Cor. 6:12, “**All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.**”
- 1 Cor. 10:23, “**All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.**”

### • **Service**

#### ○ **See Acts 20:17-27**

- v. 19 – “**Serving the Lord**”
- v. 20 – “**kept nothing back that was profitable**”
- v. 20 – “**shewed and taught**” the word of God
- v. 21 – “**testifying**” Paul continual testified how to be saved.
- vs. 22 & 23 – **tells us that Paul risked life for the cause of Christ.**
- v. 24 – “**none of these things move me**”
- v. 24 – “**neither count I my life dear unto myself**”
- Paul saying did let anything stop him even risking his own life to “**testify the gospel of the grace of God.**”
- v. 26 – Paul’s conscience is clear.
- He did not have the blood of anyone of his hands.
- He took every opportunity given him to tell people how to be saved by the grace of God.
- v. 27 – Paul told it like it was.
- He held nothing back in his preaching.
- He preach all the of the Bible not just the stuff people like to hear.

### • **Spend & Be Spent**

- Paul was a spend and be spent Christian.
- **See 2 Cor. 12:15**
- “**And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.**”
- Notice Paul says “**I will very gladly spend**”
  - Paul practiced what he preached.
  - He was a cheerful giver.
- Did you know that the Apostle Paul never went full time.
  - He often had to work to support himself and not be a burden to some of the churches.
  - Especially to the cheap skate Christians that made up the church of Corinthians.
  - He was a tent maker by trade.
- The Apostle Paul gave of us own material possessions and finances to further the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - **That’s the Spend**
- Besides that he gave of himself physically and emotionally to the point of death for the cause of Christ.
  - **That’s the Spent**

- o Paul knew very well what it was like to be used and abused by other Christians.
- o Despite this he still said, **“And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.”**
  - What a statement!
  - The more he gave of himself the less he was loved.
- Beside all this, the Apostle Paul wrote most of the New Testament.
- Yes, my friend Paul was ready to depart.
- His ship was ready to sail.

## ⇒ II. **How About You?**

- Is your ship ready to set sail?
- Do you have any eternal cargo on board to take to heaven’s shores.
- You may say, “Oh, I have plenty of time before it my time to depart.”
- My dear friend we are not promise tomorrow.
- None of us know when we breath our last breath.
- David said, **“there is but a step between me and death.” 1 Sam. 20:3.**
- The Word of God tells us in Proverbs 27:1, **“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”**
- What cargo do you have on board
  - o Have you laid up any treasure in heaven?
    - What have you done with the money God gave you?
    - Was any of it spent on supporting a good local bible believing church.
    - Was any of it spent on supporting missions?
  - o Have you led anyone to the Lord?
  - o When is the last time you handed out a gospel tract.
  - o When is the last time you gave some one your testimony
    - How Jesus saved you and what your life was before Jesus and the change that has taken place since.
  - o When is the last time you stood of for the things of God.
  - o When the last time you have some slam a door in your face for trying to witness to them about Christ.
  - o Do people know where you stand on –
    - Prayer in School & the ten commandments
    - Homosexuality
    - Porno
    - Abortion on demand
    - Adultery and fornication
    - Support of Israel
  - o Are you a spend and be spent Christian?
  - o Do you give gladly of your material resources and of yourself physically and emotionally to further the gospel of Christ?
  - o Would there be enough evidence in a court of law to convict you being a Christian.

- My friend if you have not started already then today is time to start putting some eternal cargo on board your ship.
- So when your time comes **“Your Ship Will Be Ready To Sail!”**

## ⇒ **Conclusion:**