

“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 his 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**
 - Paul knew very well what it was like to be used and abused by other Christians.
 - 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
 - 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?
 - Have you led anyone to the Lord?
 - When is the last time you handed out a gospel tract.
 - 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.
 - When is the last time you stood of for the things of God.
 - When the last time you have some slam a door in your face for trying to witness to them about Christ.
 - Do people know where you stand on –
 - Prayer in School & the ten commandments
 - Homosexuality
 - Porno
 - Abortion on demand
 - Adultery and fornication
 - Support of Israel
 - Are you a spend and be spent Christian?
 - Do you give gladly of your material resources and of yourself physically and emotionally to further the gospel of Christ?
 - Would there be enough evidence in a court of law to convict you being a Christian.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- 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!**"