Psalter: 295:1,4 - 446:2,4 - 233:1,2,4,6 - 388:1,2,3 - 398:1,2,3

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-22. Text: 2 Timothy 4:9-22

**GOD’S GRACE UNTO PAUL**

**1. Paul left by man and opposed by man**

* Four factors causing depression in prisoners.
* Paul feels lonely because friends left him and others opposed him*.*
  + Demas
    - Close friend (cf. 1 Col. 4:14; Phil. 24).
    - Is not prepared to give up his life; forsakes Paul.
    - This was a double trial and double disappointment to Paul.
      * Demas rather continues in this sinful world than to go the next world in sinless glory.
    - Appl:
      * Did you previously look down on Demas (cf. 2 Pet. 2:22)?
      * The only thing that can save us from losing our faith is the prayer of the great High Priest.
  + Crescens and Titus
  + Alexander
    - Did damage to the cause of the gospel.
  + Tychicus
* God’s grace evident in Paul:
  + No bitterness.
  + Not revengeful.
  + Ensures the ongoing care for the church.
  + Share his need with his dear son in the faith.

**2. Paul strengthened by the Lord**

* During first hearing Paul received no assistance from anybody.
  + No one dared to do it.
* The heavenly Advocate stood by him.
  + He strengthened Paul with faith in His promises and enabled him to proclaim with boldness Jesus (cf. Acts 24:25).
  + Delivered him from immediate execution (cf. Ps. 22:22).
  + Shall deliver him out of the mouth of that hellish lion and bring him into heavenly glory (cf. 1 Cor. 13:12; BCoF 37; HC Q58).
* Note why Paul is so assured.
* Appl:
  + Our unworthiness does not hinder us from being accepted with God if we but come to Him in the Son of His good pleasure.
  + Trace the Christ Paul has set before us in this letter (1:1,9,12; 2:1,8,19; 4:1).
  + Paul and Timothy found this divine grace for life and death in the Son of God’s good pleasure.
  + How is it with you?
    - If you do not know Him, then do written as in Jer. 3:13.
    - If you do know Him it is all of grace (Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8).
    - Be encouraged in His grace (2 Tim. 2:1; 1 Pet. 1:13).