

WCCC 1991

Brother Kaung

Commit to Faithful Men (4)

II Timothy 4: 1 – 8. I testify before God and Christ Jesus, who is about to judge living and dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom, proclaim the word; be urgent in season and out of season, convict, rebuke, encourage, with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time shall be when they will not bear sound teaching; but according to their own lusts will heap up to themselves teachers, having an itching ear; and they will turn away their ear from the truth, and will have turned aside to fables. But thou, be sober in all things, bear evils, do the work of an evangelist, fill up the full measure of thy ministry. For I am already being poured out, and the time of my release is come. I have combated the good combat, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth the crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will render to me in that day; but not only to me, but also to all who love His appearing.

We have been looking at II Timothy in our messages because we feel that it closely relates to the church today.

In this generation, if we want to faithfully maintain the testimony of God, we need to learn from II Timothy. We hope that every spoken word in this epistle will enter into the depth of our heart and become our life through the work of the Holy Spirit. And in this last part of our life, we can glorify our Lord.

II Timothy is the last epistle from Paul. It was written very near to his passing away from this world. So we can say this epistle is his parting words. There are examples of similar parting words in the Bible. For example, in Genesis 49, before Jacob's death, he called his sons before him and told them how each would be in their last days. Those were the most precious words of Jacob. After Jacob gave the prophecies of his sons, he worshipped God on the bed's head.

In Deuteronomy 33, Moses blessed the Israelites and spoke some important words and then went up to Mount Nebo. God showed him the land of milk and honey and he died on Mount Nebo.

Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan. In his old age before he passed from this world, he gathered the Israelites and gave them his parting words, saying 'as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah'. And then Joshua died.

I Kings 2 and I Chronicles 29 also recorded the parting words of David, the servant of God. He encouraged his son, Solomon, to be strong, to rise up and to

build the temple. He told Solomon that if he followed the commands of God all his life, then God promises He will be with his house throughout all the generations. Then David died peacefully.

The Parting Words of the Lord Jesus – In Love, Testify as One

There are similar recordings in the New Testament. Before Jesus went up to the cross, He had the last supper with His apostles. He loved them to the very end. In the Gospel According to John 13, it was recorded that He laid aside His garments, and having taken a linen towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin and washed the feet of His disciples. He told His disciples, 'If I therefore, the Lord and the teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.' He wanted His disciples to love one another. And in John 14 – 16, He told them 'let not your heart be troubled'. He would go back to His Father but He will come again and shall receive them to Himself. And He will ask the Father to give them another comforter after He left. The comforter will not only be with them but will dwell in them. The Lord said, 'He will be with you forever'. In John 17, He brought His disciples before the Father. And it was not only the original eleven disciples, but all the people who believe in Jesus Christ through the preaching of the disciples. That includes you and me and all the brothers and sisters. He brought all of us before the Father. He prayed for us before the Father, 'They are not of this world. Even though they live in this world, yet they do not belong to this world, for I have separated them out from the world.' He also prayed for all those who believe in Him that they all be one, just as He and the Father are One. That we may be one in them, so that the world will believe that the Father has sent Him. We who are in this world are so different from each other. We have different backgrounds. We have different habits and practices. We also have different leadings and opinions. We live in different countries and of different nationalities. There are no two people who are the same. But God did an amazing thing. He put all of us, who are so different from each other, in His life and in the Holy Spirit as one. There has never been such a thing in the world. And no one can carry this out. If anyone in this world wants to have everything as one, then the only way to do it is to use force to obtain the unity as one. That is to force everyone to be the same and not allow any divergence. The result is that there is only unity on the outside and not on the inside. But our Lord did an amazing thing. Even though we are all so different, yet He works in us a 'one' that surpasses beyond all our differences. And we, in reality, in His love become 'one'. And the world can see that our Lord is the One sent by God. This is the testimony of the church.

The Two Sides of the Testimony of the Church – Separated as Holy and as One

The passive perspective of the testimony of the church is that it is separated from the world and it does not belong to the world. The church does not have anything of the world. Whatever the church has, the world does not have. It is because God separated out the church to be holy. This is the passive view of the testimony of the church showing the difference between the church and the

world. But there is the active side of the testimony. We, who are so different become one and the same. This is the testimony of the church on earth. This testimony is to testify Jesus is indeed Lord. Thus, in the end times, He gave us the most precious teachings and examples. And He has great hope in us.

The Parting Words of Paul Before His Death

Before he died, this elderly Paul, a soldier who faithfully served the Lord his whole life, wrote II Timothy to his beloved son, Timothy. Those were his parting words or we can say his will. He exhorted his son, Timothy and told him how he should be after he was gone. The parting words of one who is going to die have to be words about important things. He will say all the things that are deep in his heart and very precious to him. When Paul spoke to Timothy, he sure was speaking from the depth of his heart. Every word was filled with tears and blood. These words were so precious and the situation was so solemn. He said, 'I testify before God and Christ Jesus, who is about to judge living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.' Such solemn attitude! He said, 'I now exhorted you!'

Walk Before God and Be Perfect

Paul was one who lived before God. He started to live before God after he was met by the Lord on the road to Damascus. He saw the face of God each day and he lived in the light of God's face. He was one who stood before God to serve Him and he lived to please God. He lived not to please men but to please God. In Genesis 17:1, God said to Abraham, '...walk before My face and be perfect.' Paul indeed was one who walked before God. And because he walked before God, he became perfect.

What does the word 'perfect' mean in the bible? Perfect in the bible does not mean totally without sins. Rather it means maturity. He continued to grow before God. He did not stop at a certain point. He grew to be more and more like our Lord and more and more conformed to the image of the Son. Dear brothers and sisters, how can we be molded into the image of the Son? We need to know this is God's heart desire for each of us. Romans 8 tells us – whom He has foreknown, He has also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Only those who are conformed to the image of the Son can be united with Him. God wants to prepare a bride for His Son. And this bride needs to be able to unite with Him. Thus God's will is that whom He has predestinated, He also called; and whom He has called, He justified and whom He justified, He also glorified. What is glory? Glory is God Himself. Glory is God's life. Glory is God's character. Glory is our Lord.

I always thank my God. He will work on us. He will not let us go because He has chosen us. He not only justified us but He will work on us until we are wholly glorious. Not just a glorious individual, but it is a glorious church. This is His will and this is the work He will accomplish. For our part, to have this

work completed, we need to live before God. If we live before God every day, then it will be like what II Corinthians 3 said, 'we with unveiled face, look on the glory of the Lord'. If we look on the face of the Lord, we will be transformed. The Holy Spirit works in us and we will be transformed according to the same image as the Lord from glory to glory. This is the heart desire of God.

Again, I say that if we want to have God's heart desire to be accomplished, we need to live before our God and we need to see His face every day. If God hides His face from us, we will be like dead. Psalm 27: 8 said, 'My heart said for Thee, seek you, My face. Thy face, O Jehovah, will I seek'. How I wish each one of us seeks the face of our Father. It is not important if we see less of other people's faces. Maybe that will be better for us. It is better for us not to look at our face in the mirror. But we will be like dead if we cannot see God's face for a day. Paul was one who stood before God and served Him with a pure conscience. He never let anything prevents him from seeing God's face each day. Thus when he was close to go to meet the Lord, he was peaceful inside. It is because to him, God's face is not unfamiliar. To Paul, it is the happiest thing if he was to meet the Lord.

All of God's Children Have to Stand Before Christ's Judgment Seat That Day

Paul not only said, I exhorted you before God. He also said, I exhorted you before Christ Jesus who will judge both living and dead. We know that the Father does not judge but has given the power to judge to His Son. Our Lord in the Gospel According to John 5: 22 said, 'for neither does the Father judge anyone, but has given all judgment to the Son'. Our Lord is One who judges. Thank the Lord. He was judged for us on the cross so that those who believe in Him will not have to go through the judgment before the great white Throne. One day the earth will be abolished. A great white throne will be established. All the dead will be resurrected and will stand before the great white throne. Each will have a file. Every one of us has a file before God with all our works recorded in there. Each will be judged according to one's works written in the file. Praise and thank the Lord. Even though we also have a file but because of the precious blood of our Lord, it has been wiped clean. What grace it is for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise and thank the Lord! We do not need to go through the judgment before the great white throne. Those who believe in Him have gone out of death into life and will no longer have to go through the judgment before the white throne. But does that mean we do not need to go through any judgment? Paul said, I testify before Christ who is to judge the living and the dead. Even though there is no longer the white throne and we belong to the house of God, yet there is still family law. Even though there is no judgment before the white throne, yet there is judgment before the judgment seat of Christ. The bible tells us that one day, we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and will be judged according to what we have done. It is not the eternal condemnation judgment before the white throne but it is the judgment before Christ's judgment seat.

What is the judgment seat of Christ? There is a background to the word 'judgment seat'. In the old days, the eastern country usually had a system of big families. Each family consisted of many members. Of course, the grandfather was the head of the family. He would call a family meeting at certain times of the year. All the family members, big and small would gather in a big room. There would be a raised platform in the middle of the room. The head of the family would sit on the platform and all the rest of the family gathered around him. If you were not born in the family, you could not join. Only those who were born into the family were qualified to join the family meeting. In fact, they were required to attend. And what did they do in this family meeting? If there was one who did something to glorify the ancestors, then that one would be praised and rewarded. If he did something to shame the ancestors, the head would reprimand and punish him. This is the background of the 'judgment set'.

Thank and praise God! Because of Jesus Christ, we escape the future wrath and the judgment before the white throne. Some people will think that since I will not be condemned, I can just live as I like. Brothers and sisters, be careful. Even though you no longer need to go through the judgment before the white throne, yet you are now in God's family and there are family laws. We still belong to a family. Our parents are still watching us to see whether we glorify or shame this family after we became children of this family. This will be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ. Brothers and sisters, today people do not understand clearly the judgment God has on this world. But God has already judged the world. It is only that He has not carried out the judgment. And the people in this world think there is no judgment. Today, in God's house, our Lord hopes that we will repent and has not meted out His judgment towards us yet. Do not think there is no judgment before the judgment seat of Christ. He is just giving us a chance to repent. One day, our Lord will return. He will descend from the throne to the clouds. I Thessalonians 4 told us at that time, the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then the living who remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Today's Work on Earth Will Be Tried by Fire

We always think how happy it will be when we meet our Lord in the air. But do not jump so fast. I am afraid that for some people there will be crying when we meet our Lord in the air. Why is it so? The judgment of the saints will take place in the air when we meet our Lord. At that time our Lord will judge those in His house. Some will have praises and rewards. But some will be left out in the darkness. There will be gnashing of the teeth. Many people think that those who are left in darkness are those who do not believe in God. But the gospel said they were servants and virgins and they all belonged to God. And there in darkness these people have to suffer. They will lose the chance of sitting with the bridegroom in the marriage feast. And this is all because of their desire to satisfy their lust and to go after the fleeting enjoyment of the world. It is not that they are not saved. It is just that they are only barely saved. I Corinthians 3

said 'it will be revealed by fire'. What is this fire? God is this fire. His character is fire and this fire will try the work of each of us. Do you know that every day we are building upon the foundation? Some use gold, silver and precious stones to build. Others use wood, grass and straw to build. But when the fire tries the work, then all will be revealed. The work of some will all be consumed by the fire. And all that were built, from the time one believed in Christ till Christ comes back, will be lost. Even though we are saved, yet it will be as 'through the fire'. Those who build with gold, silver and precious stones will pass through the fire intact and the glory inside will be revealed.

Live in The Light of Christ's Judgment Seat

Paul lived daily in the light of Christ's judgment seat. And every day he followed the leading of this light. Thus, he can meet the Lord without fear. Dear brothers and sisters, do we live daily in the light of Christ's judgment seat? Maybe we are willing to stay in darkness with our back towards this light. Maybe we do not want to walk in this light. Paul said, I live before God and before Christ who will judge the living and the dead. What a serious matter this is!

The Appearing of the Lord and His Kingdom

In addition, Paul said, by His appearing and His kingdom, I exhort you. One day our Lord will appear, coming down to earth from heaven. When he thus appears, His kingdom will come. The kingdom of the world of our Lord and of His Christ will come. Thank and praise God! The day of our Lord's appearing is very close. Remember the words 'learn from the fig tree' of our Lord Jesus? Originally the fig tree was dead to its roots but now a miracle happened and it sprouted. Matthew 24: 32 - 33 said, 'When already its branch becomes tender and produces leaves, you know that summer is near. Thus also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors.

The houses in the east are different from those in the west. For the houses in the west, the front door opens directly to the inside of the house. But for the houses in the east, the front door opens to a few more doors before getting to the inside of the house. First it is the outer court. Then another door leads to the servants' quarters. And then there is another door before reaching the inside of the house. If the owner is wealthy, there are more doors to pass through before reaching the inside of the house. In the original language, the Lord said 'doors' - plural form - at the doors. He is already at the doors. We do not know which door He refers to. But for sure we know His coming is very near. Our Lord is coming back soon and His kingdom will come. Brothers and sisters, this indeed is an extremely important matter. Do you remember what John the Baptist said when the Lord came the first time? People were sleeping. But John cried out 'the kingdom of heaven is near. Repent, you cannot continue to be this foolish. You cannot be this slack. You need to be serious because the kingdom of heaven is near'.

Proclaim the Word of God

When our Lord comes back the second time, the kingdom of heaven will come. What a solemn matter this is! Paul said, I command you according to these matters. We should know how heavy Paul's heart was at that time. He saw that the kingdom is near. He saw the dangerous times. He saw that the people had an itching ear. The truth was buried. Many withdrew. The testimony of the Lord seemed to be shaken. His heart was indeed very heavy. And so he exhorted his son; do not be casual; do not relax; do not be careless. This was not the time to withdraw. Proclaim the word. Here it said proclaim the word because at that time the word of God has been misrepresented. In I Timothy, there were only a few who were teaching other doctrines and fables. But in II Timothy, people's ears were itching because the word of God pierced their ears and convicted them. Thus, the people did not want to listen to the word of God. They just wanted to hear what they loved to hear. They loved to hear words that would satisfy their lust. They started to spread fables and the fables led them into darkness. How important it is to have God's word in times like this! The word of God is the testimony. The word of God testifies for the Lord. Thus, Paul told Timothy he had to maintain the testimony of the Lord, be it in season or out of season. Do not look at the surroundings. Even in the most difficult time you need to preach the word of God, cutting in a straight line the word of God and making Christ as the center. Jesus is indeed Lord. This is our testimony. We must continue to maintain it.

Offer Ourselves Up as a Living Sacrifice to God

Paul continued to say, 'For I am already been poured out, and the time of my release is come'. We know that from the time Paul saw the vision on the road to Damascus, he had offered himself as a living sacrifice to the Lord. When Paul met the Lord, the first thing he said was, 'Lord, who are you?' Then he said, 'Lord, what should I do?' The first thing he said showed us that he had turned himself completely to the Lord. The second thing he said showed he submitted completely to the Lord. He offered himself as a living sacrifice. He did not have any power to direct his own action because the Lord was His Lord. He was willing to obey all of the Lord's commands. He became a sacrifice and he offered himself up on the altar. And he had never came down from the altar. Brothers and sisters, we always go up and down the altar. And our time down from the altar exceeds the times when we are on the altar. But Paul remained on the altar all the time because he was a living sacrifice. He let the Lord directs him. He did not satisfy himself. Rather, he was willing to be burned to ashes and to become nothing so the Lord can have all.

Paul Looked at His Work as a Sacrifice Offered Up to God

Paul was willing to be a burnt offering. What about his work? This was what he said to the church in Philippi: 'But if also I am poured out as a libation on the sacrifice and ministration of your faith, I rejoice, and rejoice in common with you

all.’ Paul treated his work as a sacrifice and not as a food. Today many people treat their work as their own enjoyment. They said, ‘This is my work. I work it out myself and this is my right’. But Paul was different. His work was a sacrifice offered up to God. He suffered a lot in his work. There was no enjoyment in his work. But his heart was satisfied as long as the Lord had gained from his work. He said, ‘I treat your faith as a sacrificial offering. I am willing to be poured out as a libation’.

Among all the offerings in the Old Testament, there was one offering called the drink or wine offering. In Exodus 29 and Leviticus 23, when the people offered up either bull or lamb, they needed to pour wine over the offering. This was called the drink offering. What does wine represent? Wine represents joy. How did Paul put it? ‘I offered up your faith as a sacrifice pleasing to God. And I am like wine poured over the sacrifice.’ The meaning of this is that Paul himself was very joyful: When I saw that you were gained by our Lord, I was very joyful. Even though I did not gain anything, yet the Lord did gain. How joyful I was! This was my joy. I was totally willing to be poured out. I was not forced to do so. I was a drink offering. I rejoiced with you. Thus, when Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, he said in Colossians 1: 24 ‘Now, I rejoice in sufferings for you, and I fill up that which is behind of the tribulations of Christ in my flesh, for His body, which is the assembly’. Christ gave Himself up for the church. But for the body to mature and to be whole, there must be some people who are willing to suffer with Christ and to wholly bring men before God. Paul said, ‘My heart rejoices’. Paul said his heart rejoiced even though he had to suffer. He said, ‘I want to see the completion of the body of Christ’. He told the church at Corinth in II Corinthians 12: 15, ‘Now I shall most gladly spend and be utterly spent for our souls’. This is the drink offering. In II Timothy 4: 6, Paul said, ‘For I am already being poured out, and the time of my release is come’. Dear brothers and sisters, Paul’s entire life was like a drink offering. In one of the hymns, it said, ‘Know not to drink wine, but know only to pour out wine,’ and ‘know not to save bread but only to break bread’. This can be said of Paul’s testimony. And this was what elderly Paul said when he was ready to leave this world.

Our Strength are Renewed by the Thought of Our Lord Coming Again

Dear brothers and sisters, we encounter many difficulties in times like this. Our body seems to bear many wounds. Maybe it reaches to a point where we cannot bear it anymore. But when we think of our Lord’s imminent appearing and the coming of His kingdom, our strength is renewed once again. In the second and third century of the church history, the believers met great persecutions. They said ‘the Lord will be back soon’ when they saw each other. Dear brothers and sisters, when we think of our Lord coming back soon, our inner strength is renewed and we can keep running the last phase of the journey. Hebrews 10: 37 – 39 tells us, ‘For yet a very little while He that comes will come and will not delay. But the just shall live by faith, and if he draws back, my soul does not take pleasure in him. But we are not drawers back to perdition’. May

we bravely go forward and maintain the Lord's testimony that Jesus is Lord, regardless of the situation of the outside surroundings.

Fight the Good Fight

Paul used three different aspects in an example to talk about himself. He said, 'I have combated the good combat'. The original word of combat points to 'physical combat' and 'wrestling'. It is not like the combat nowadays with both sides standing far aside from each other. Rather it was close contact combat and wrestling. Paul had already fought the good combat. From the day he met the Lord on his way to Damascus, he risked dying every day. He combated those wild animals in Ephesus. The world was like the wild animals and Paul fought them every single day. He fought with sin. He would not give sin any chance. The bible tells us not to be discouraged. We have not yet wrestled with sin to the point of bleeding. He fought with Satan. In Ephesians 6, he said, 'our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the spiritual power of wickedness in the heavenlies'. Sometimes he also wrestled with God. But thank God that Paul always lost and the Lord always won. Just like what Hosea 12: 3 said, 'Jacob wrestled with God'. How are we to fight this combat today? Are we living before God? Does the enlightenment of the judgment seat lead us so we will continue to stand and not let loose?

Finished the Race

Paul said, 'I have finished the race'. After a person believed in the Lord, God put us in a racetrack. God has a will for us. As Paul said in Philippians 3: 13 – 14, 'I do not count to have got possession myself, but I pursue with all my strength'. Paul had already gone quite some ways when he wrote Philippians. Yet he still considered he had not gotten possession himself. And he continued to pursue. What was he pursuing? He was pursuing for the prize of the calling on high of God in Christ Jesus. You know the Lord has a will for each of us. He wanted to gain us. But have we gotten what He wanted us to get? Have we run the whole course of the way? This way is not easy. There are many obstacles in the way. Thus we put down all our burdens and all our tangled sins, run with endurance towards the goal, looking steadfastly on Jesus. Do not look around, just look unto the Lord. This way we can finish our race. Paul said he had finished the race. At that time, he knew he had finished the race. He had gotten what Christ had for him.

Kept the Faith

Paul said, 'I have kept the faith'. This faith was the truth once given to the saints. This is the entire book of the word of God and the testimony of the Lord. He said, 'I have kept it'. Just like the Lord said to the assembly in Philadelphia, 'You have kept My word. You have not denied My name'. Thus at that time, Paul knew henceforth there is a crown of righteousness laid up for him. Our God is a righteous God. Today if we endure, then on that day, we will reign with

the Lord. Paul also said that the crown will not be given only to him but will be given also to all who love His appearing. Brothers and sisters, we should all love His appearing. Otherwise, just the thought of His appearing will bring fear to our heart. If one just loves oneself and the world, one will not love the Lord's appearing. It will be just like the evil servant in Matthew 24: 48 who said, 'My lord delays his coming'. But one who loves the Lord will wish the Lord will return immediately. The church has waited for the Lord's return for two thousand years. Generation comes and goes. The cry of the church is 'come, Lord Jesus'. The Spirit and the bride said, 'may you come quickly'. Brothers and sisters, today, on this earth, there are many people who cause the delay of the Lord's return. If you are one of them, then you will not see the Lord when He returns. It will be just like the five foolish virgins. When they returned after getting oil, the door closed on them. Thank and praise God that there are still some people on this earth who live to hasten the Lord's return. May we all be like these people. At that time, even Paul had not been martyred, yet his spirit had ascended. We call this as the raptured spirit. When Paul wrote II Timothy, he was still in this world physically. But his spirit was already in heaven. Even under this circumstance, he was still a man. Thus he continued on with his words.

Spirit Ascended, but the Soul and Flesh Still Had Needs

Do not think that there can be a man who is so spiritual that he does not have any feeling as if he is not a man. The only perfect man on this earth is our Lord. He was a man – a perfect man. Even though the spirit of Paul had ascended, yet his body and soul were still on earth. Thus his soul still had needs. He saw that Demas had forsaken him. How sad he had to be! Demas had served with him. He mentioned Demas and Mark when he wrote Colossians. In this most difficult time, all of Asia forsook him. And even Demas, his coworker, forsook him for the love of the world and had gone to Thessalonica. Man's nature tends to want company in difficult times. Paul was a man. How it had to hurt him when he saw Demas forsook him.

This was not an accidental act of Demas. Even though he served with Paul, yet he had to have a little compromise inside him. He loved himself more than he loved the Lord. He did not have a pure heart towards God. And this was revealed when he was tested. During ordinary times, we are all the same. But when the testimony of the Lord is tested, then everything will be revealed. We will know who really love and follow the Lord, who are the faithful and who have a pure heart towards God. And we will know who are those that have hidden secrets inside. Demas did not care about Paul. He cared only for himself.

How Paul desired that Timothy could go to him quickly during times like that. At the beginning of II Timothy, Paul said, 'I remember your tears everyday'. We do not know what this points to.

It could be that Timothy cried when they parted for the last time. And Paul remembered that incidence. Paul then hoped that Timothy could go to him quickly and he could see him one last time before he was martyred. We could not find in history whether Timothy made it to see Paul before he was martyred. But from here we could see that Paul was still a human being. Brothers and sisters, we are very much like that too. Our spirit can ascend but we can still feel the pain in our soul. And Paul's body had needs too. It could be that when Paul was taken, he did not bring his cloak because of the tense situation at that time. (I am not very sure, but Paul might be taken prisoner in Troas). He was thrown into the prison cell which was wet and dark. Winter was approaching and Paul felt his body's need. Therefore he asked Timothy to bring his cloak. He also asked Timothy to bring the books, especially the parchments. Even though Paul was at the end of his life, yet he was still pursuing the Lord and reading His words. He not only read the Lord's words but he also read other commentaries. His pursuit of the Lord never stopped. It only stopped when he died. What an encouragement it is to us.

Manifested the Glory of the Lord

Paul said no one stood with him on his first defense. That is to say no one testified on his behalf that he was a good man. Everyone to oneself, leaving Paul to stand by himself. But he said, 'But the Lord stood by me, and gave me power, that through me, the gospel was fully proclaimed'. This was just like the situation in Acts 26. King Agrippa gave Paul the chance to defend himself. But Paul did not defend himself. He defended the testimony of the Lord. And he did not defend himself before Caesar either. Instead, he used the chance to testify for the Lord. He said, 'Thank the Lord. He has saved me from the lion's mouth and He will save me from many different dangers. And He definitely will save me so as to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Paul did not wish to escape from that death. He knew his time to pass from this earth was very close. But he definitely trusted that the Lord would save him from all wicked dangers and would preserve him for his heavenly kingdom. The term 'kingdom of heaven' apart from the Gospel according to Matthew, was mentioned only here. At that time what Paul saw was the kingdom of heaven. He was to leave the nation on earth. The kingdom of heaven was so close. And he could not help but to worship. He said, 'May glory be given to Him for the ages of ages. Amen'. All is His glory. Dear brothers and sister, we see Christ, not Paul, in this soon to be martyred Paul. We see glory! May the glory of God fill the whole earth for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer: Our Lord, You are glory! We wish Your glory fill the whole earth. We wish Your glory will be manifested from us. We wish one day Your glory fills the whole earth. Because all kingdom, power and glory are all yours forever and ever. Amen.