

Friendships matter.

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹² Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

1. Our commitment & concern should be for people - v. 9-13
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If you want to see who your real friends are, just make a mistake and see whether or not they leave you. Life is like a ship. Some people get on and off board very easily. Some will stay on board as long as everything is sailing smoothly; but let the rough weather come, and they will abandon the ship. A true friend is the one who will stick with you.

-Adrian Rogers

2. Let God deal with your enemies - v.14-15
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3. Lasting friendships should be led by a love for God - v. 16-18
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In every relationship or friendship, the goal is to make much of God.

“Christian friends link arms together with the goal of pushing each other toward the wellspring of Christ.”¹

Godly friendships reaffirm the Gospel

1. Extends Forgiveness
2. Others focused
3. Rejoice & Mourn together
4. Compassion & Kindness throughout
5. Listen & carry burdens together
6. Keep one another accountable

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/more-than-bffs>