Loneliness is like the color light blue.

It feels like you're sitting on a bench in a park on a cold winter day, with no one around.

It smells like something plain.

The sound of loneliness is like the breeze dancing through the trees; the taste of it is something dry and rough.

- Kathi Webb, March 1993

Being without companionship...

being without the support, encouragement and comfort of others...

without the warmth and affection of others...

the depressing feeling that accompanies being alone

### The apostle Paul

The Letter of Second Timothy





God's prescription for emotional and spiritual stability

### Loneliness

### Paul's location

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy was his last letter

Written from his dungeon cell in the Mamertine Prison in Rome



"Any tourist today who leaves the guided tours and makes his own way under the brow of the Capitoline Hill in Rome will find himself admitted to a narrow, dark stairway. Descending the winding stone staircase he finally comes to the dismal, dark, lowarched chamber where the apostle lay bound waiting to be offered up. Even on a hot summer day the visitor will sense the dampness of the dungeon."

> - Charles Ryrie Especially the Parchments



# Paul's relationship to others

Last 20 years of his life he preached to crowds, was surrounded by close friends and co-laborers

Now only Luke is with him



#### 2 Timothy 4:9-11a

Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica – Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me...



2 Corinthians 11:24-27 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen,



2 Corinthians 11:24-27 in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness...



### The time of year -Winter

### 2 Timothy 4:21a

Do your utmost to come before winter...



# Paul's thoughts about the future

Paul was confident of release during his first imprisonment

#### Philippians 2:19-24 ...as soon as I see how it goes with me...



# Paul's thoughts about the future

Paul was confident of release during his first imprisonment

#### Philemon 22

...prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.



# Paul's thoughts about the future

This time Paul knew this imprisonment would end in death



### 2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.



### 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.



# Paul's bittersweet memories

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me,



# Paul's bittersweet memories

**2 Timothy 4:16-17** so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.



# Paul asked for companionship

2 Timothy 4:9, 11 Be diligent to come to me quickly... Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.



### Paul asked for his cloak

2 Timothy 4:13a Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come...



"Look at that cloak for a moment. It was a traveling cloak with long sleeves.

Perhaps Paul had woven it himself, and it may have been over its sleeves that other cloaks had been draped when Stephen was martyred.

It had a rich history in the service of Christ.



It had been wet with the brine of the Agean, yellow with the dust of the Ignatian Way, white with the snows of Galatia and Pamphylia, and crimson with the blood of his own wounds.

And now it was to serve its last purpose and keep an aged man warm during a cold winter."

> - Charles Ryrie Especially the Parchments



# Paul asked for his reading material

**2 Timothy 4:13b** *...and the books...* 

Possibly great literary works other than the Scriptures



# Paul asked for the parchments

### **2 Timothy 4:13c** ...especially the parchments.

Paul's copies of the Scriptures



#### Psalm 56:3-4

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?"



#### Psalm 42:1-3, 11

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, 'Where is your God'...



#### Psalm 42:1-3, 11

"Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God."



#### Romans 8:38-30

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



#### Hebrews 13:5 For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."



Ask for companionship

Attend to your own physical needs

Spend time reading uplifting, inspirational books

Spend time in the Scriptures