

"Meeting Life's Necessities" – October 15, 2023 Thoughts to Ponder

Death's approach has a way of making it much easier to sort the essential from the trivial. Paul was doing just that as he sat in a prison in Rome awaiting the executioner's sword two thousand years ago.

- 1. "When you come, bring the cloak I left with Carpus in Troas." (II Timothy 4:13) Winter was coming; Paul had physical needs.
 - a. Name some of the items you once thought you couldn't live without that are gathering dust now what changed?
 - b. As death approaches, what will you deem to be your essential physical needs? Please explain.
- "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry." (II Timothy 4:11) Paul needed hope and encouragement; he included friends among life's necessities.
 - a. Describe the relationships you once valued that are now in shambles. Why do you no longer value them enough to seek restoration?
 - b. As death approaches, what will you deem to be your essential relationships? Please explain.

- 3. "Bring . . . my scrolls . . ." (II Timothy 4:13) Paul needed to be productive; he included work among life's necessities.
 - a. We all need to be doing something meaningful. Would you say that you're using your time constructively? Why or why not?
 - b. As death approaches, how might you spend your time differently? Please explain.
- 4. "Bring my scrolls, especially my parchments." (II Timothy 4:13) Immersing himself in God's Word was important to Paul.
 - a. What priority do you give to studying and pondering God's Word daily? If other things are more important, explain why.
 - b. As death approaches, how might your appreciation for God's Word change and be evidenced differently? Please explain.

