

time was short, and that if he were ever to see Timothy again he must bid him hasten, without delay, and, therefore, he writes a second epistle to Timothy, and turns with the longing of a dying man to the one most closely connected with his life-work and with his affection; but he writes fully in case, even if he were to come with all speed, he might be too late to receive his last will and testament.

This explains the alternate glow of passionate yearning for the future steadfastness of Timothy, on the one hand, and the flashes of joyful anticipation on the other, which fill the heart of the warrior, as he thinks of the moment when he may lay down the shield, which he has never lowered, at the feet of his Lord.

Paul's Blessing upon Timothy.

As Moses gave a parting charge to Joshua, so Paul delivers a parting charge to Timothy also. He, himself, is standing where the weariness of the desert track is passing into the joy of the streets of the New Jerusalem, but as he looks back upon his weariness, upon the extremity of suffering he has passed through, he does not shrink from calling upon the man whom he loves, and bidding him follow also. He tells Timothy that he is to look upon persecution as a test of faithful following (a prophecy too truly fulfilled in his subsequent martyrdom), and bids him if he will find strength to seek it in the study of the Holy Scriptures, given by the inspiration of God and first placed in his hands by his mother.

He bids him still more urgently bring the books, and "especially the parchments," and then with one last triumphant cry, one last prayer for Timothy, he ceases, and the lips of Paul are sealed to us for ever. Only a few days, and Paul is condemned and led out on the Ostian way to be beheaded. Little reck the gay court of Rome, little reck the passers by, amongst whom, accompanied by a band of soldiers, he threads his way, that the greatest of the Romans is about to pass from the gate of the Eternal City into the gate of the City without foundations, Eternal in the Heavens. One flash of the executioner's axe, and