



As people who “stumble in many ways” ([James 3:2](#)), the last chapter of Paul’s last letter helps us get up and run toward the finish line for the rest of our days.

### ◆ A contrast in stumbling

- \_\_\_\_\_: an example of warning
  - Four or five years earlier, he was described by Paul as “a fellow \_\_\_\_\_” ([Col 4:12-14](#); [Philem 23-24](#)).
  - But somewhere along the way, he stumbled. Why? Demas had fallen “in \_\_\_\_\_ with this \_\_\_\_\_ world” ([2 Tim 4:10](#)).
- \_\_\_\_\_: an example of hope and grace
  - About 20 years earlier, he had disappointed Paul ([Acts 12:12, 25](#); [13:1-5, 13](#); [15:35-40](#)).
  - Mark had stumbled, but now? “He is very \_\_\_\_\_ to me for ministry” ([2 Tim 4:11](#)).

### ◆ Three very human situations

- Paul had a strong \_\_\_\_\_: Alexander ([4:14-15](#)), but he kept entrusting himself to him who judges justly ([1 Pet 2:21-23](#)).
- Paul had some \_\_\_\_\_ who weren’t as strong as they could have been ([4:16](#)), but he was graceful in the face of human weakness ([1 Pet 2:24-25](#)).
- Paul had a \_\_\_\_\_ stronger than any hurdle or obstacle he could possibly encounter ([4:17-18](#)), and he knew that he was never really alone ([4:1](#)).

### ◆ The connection between a 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman prison and where we sit in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: “the \_\_\_\_\_”

- “...so that through \_\_\_\_\_ the message might be fully proclaimed...” ([4:17](#)).
- Timothy, “Preach the \_\_\_\_\_” ([4:2-5](#)).

### ◆ The universal human experience

- “The time of my \_\_\_\_\_ has come” ([4:6](#)).
- The fight you fight, the race you run, and the faith you live by will determine your experience of “\_\_\_\_\_.”