

We quickly see this in the expression of Paul in v. 12..."For which cause I also suffer these things..." In a technical sense he means that for the ministry of the Gospel he has been imprisoned and deprived of what might hopefully have been his in life. The "these things" covers the events that have occurred, not material goods in themselves. But it sets the background for this important point...the events, properties, benevolent settings in life, etc., are not to be held at the expense of the truths of the Gospel. It is hard to live in a state of yieldedness if the mind is perpetually on the circumstances of this life...and any state other than yieldedness presents the problems in coldness, etc., earlier noted.

b. Be firm in your yieldedness

The key thrust is that the Apostle knew concretely how well the Lord could be trusted with his total person. He speaks of himself as knowing and being persuaded that the reality of the trust was accomplished in the Lord. Firmness is the sense of being fully confident that the action and/or policy is right. There is nothing like wavering or being "fickle" to provoke a poor witness and the testimony of Paul is that his own firm dedication made the stresses more readily accepted.

c. Set your values in light of "that day"

It appears to me that the "that day" of v. 12 is a reference about the time of the completion of this age and our being with the Lord...as in Philippians 1:6, et al. It does not seem to be primarily a reference to our dying but to our coming to the place of reward or completion. Perhaps the same economy as the time of reward as in 1 Peter 1. But the emphasis is surely on the Lord's reliability until that day and, accordingly, on our faithfulness is having values set in that light. The Lord reminded us (Matthew 6) that one's heart would follow his treasure and in this sense if the values are set