

An Analysis of Analusis

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As the end of the apostle Paul's life drew near, he found himself in (what many believe to be) a Roman dungeon. There in those cold, damp, dark surroundings, he sends a powerful letter to Timothy. We know this letter as Second Timothy. As the letter draws to a close, Paul urges the evangelist to come quickly, and before winter. Why the rush to get to Paul? The apostle says, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come" (2 Timothy 4:6). Like the letter, Paul's life was drawing to a close. Perhaps, uncertain about how many days were left before his execution, Paul essentially says, "Hurry."

The word that is translated "departure" in our English versions of this verse is the Greek word, analusis. It is from this word that we get our English word, analysis. The Greek word was used to describe the movement of an army, packing up the tents and departing to another location. Today, we might say, "We're pulling up stakes." Sailors would use the word to describe the loosing of a ship from its moorings, as it would depart to sea. So how did such a word develop into the idea of analysis as defined today? Literally, the word described an unloosing. When we perform an analysis, we unloose or unravel all of the information for examination. It is this departing or separating of all the information that gives us the analysis.

Knowing that his life was coming to an end, I find it interesting, that in the next verse the apostle essentially does an analysis of his life. He looks back and draws some important conclusions. Here is his analysis of his life: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Paul had indeed fought the good fight and kept the faith. The New Testament, from the book of Acts to Second Timothy, gives us solid evidence of his commitment and faith. The urgent letter to Timothy shows Paul finishing the course. Looking over the analysis, the inspired apostle is more than confident, as he writes:

"In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8).

All of us will experience a time of analusis, a time of departure. Doing an analysis of your life right now, do you share Paul's confidence? Are you fighting the good fight, or just fighting? Are you keeping the faith, or just obsessed with keeping? Are you still on course, or have you become lost?

Take some time to do an analysis of your analusis.