

The Attackers: Review: Principles on Evil; Examples of Human Good & Evil: Altruistic Humanism, Philanthropy, Legalism, Socialism, Internationalism, Diplomacy, Sociology, Gun Legislation, Governmental Fiat, Environmentalism, Fuzzy, Confusing, & Illogical Gospels; the Struggle for Ascendancy between Truth & Evil; Current Zeitgeist: Traditional Ebb during a Progressive Flow

D. Alexander Coppersmith: 2 Timothy 4:14–15:

2 Timothy 4:1 -I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

1. This chapter begins with Paul expressing the divine transfer of authority from himself over to Timothy.
2. The first verse is introduced by the present middle indicative of the verb **διαμαρτύρομαι (diamartúromai)**.
3. This is a military term for a command issued in the changing of the guard and may be translated “I solemnly command.”
4. Paul is now incarcerated for the second time in a Roman prison. His administrative officer, Luke, is with him in Rome and Paul requests that Timothy come to Rome, bringing John Mark with him.

2 Timothy 4:11 - Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

5. There are several people who have served under Paul who are deployed among several areas of the Roman Empire.¹
6. There were also those who opposed Paul and one of his major adversaries was Alexander Coppersmith who is mentioned for the last time in:

2 Timothy 4:14 - Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

1. The verse begins with the masculine proper noun **Ἀλέξανδρος (Aléxandros)**: “defender of men,” which proves that some do not live up to their name.
2. He is described next by the word that is translated “coppersmith,” the noun **χαλκεύς (chalkeús)**: metal smith.
3. Originally, the smith was one who worked copper, bronze, or iron. Since jewelry was made from copper, and copper is frequently associated with silver, the *chalkeús* can also be a silversmith.²
4. We first met him in our study in Acts 19 as the spokesman against Paul that was rejected by the riotous mob.
5. Our second encounter with his was in 1 Timothy 1:19-20 where Paul appeals to the Father to allow Satan to administer the sin unto death upon Alexander.

¹ Crescens is in Galatia and Titus is in Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10b). Tychicus is en route to Ephesus to relieve Timothy as pastor-teacher. Other friends of Paul are mention: Priscilla, Aqulia, and Onesiphorus and his family (v. 19), Erastus is in Corinth and Trophimus is in Miletus ill, and Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia among others who are with Paul in Rome (v. 21).

² Ceslas Spicq, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, trans. and ed. James D. Ernest (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994), 3:496.

6. This is the administration of intensive discipline that will result in the metalworker's agonizing death.
7. Under intensive discipline administered by Lucifer, Alexander will be more motivated to take out his hatred and vengeance on Paul.
8. The Epistle of First Timothy was written by Paul in A.D. 64; the second in A.D. 67. Three years after Alexander was handed over to Lucifer he is still alive and will suffer his demise at a time yet future.
9. During this period, Paul says that Alexander "did me much harm." The word "much" is the plural of the adjective **πολύς (polús)**: "many things."
10. This is followed by the plural of the direct object **καλός (kalós)**: "many evil things."
11. We concluded our study of 1 Timothy 1:19-20 with a review of the doctrine of evil. When evil is directed at a mature believer rather than a group of people, then it is to be classified as evidence testing.
12. Paul uses the dative of personal disadvantage to present himself as the target of Alexander's antagonistic attacks.
13. It was Alexander in whose interest these acts were performed. Alexander's hatred of Paul has been increased further by Satan's freedom to use the metalworker as an agent to attack the apostle.
14. Alexander responds with an obsessive desire to get rid of Paul in whatever manner possible.
15. The reference to the imposition of evil upon Paul is not related to the apostle's ministry in Ephesus but rather to his trial in Rome.
16. There was no one willing to come forward in the city of Rome to support, let alone defend Paul.
17. Nero was on a rampage. He had just torched the city and in order to cover-up his guilt he blamed it on the Christians, amplifying the lie by having them brutally executed.³
18. Paul was among those believers arrested and details of his second imprisonment implicate Alexander Coppersmith as the one who testified against him for the prosecution.
19. The background of Paul's arrest, trial, conviction, and execution sheds light on the divine plan for Paul, Alexander Coppersmith, and the church in general.

³ "During the fire Nero was at his villa at Antium 35 miles from Rome and therefore cannot be held responsible for the burning of the city. But the Roman population mistakenly believed that he himself had started the fire in Rome in order to indulge his aesthetic tastes in the city's subsequent reconstruction. According to Tacitus (*Annals*) and Suetonius (*Nero*), Nero in response tried to shift responsibility for the fire on the Christians, who were popularly thought to engage in many wicked practices" (*The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia*, 15th ed. (Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2010), 8:606.