Paul’s Saddest Words

Introduction:
A. Paul’s words concerning himself were generally happy and upbeat (cf. Phil. 1:12, 18; 3:17; 4:15)
B. Yet, Paul a few times wrote some things that, to me, are words of sadness:

Discussion:
I. “I Am Not Meet to Be Called an Apostle” (1 Cor. 15:9)
A. Paul was so thankful for God’s mercy and forgiveness (1 Tim. 1:12-16)
B. Yet, he could not forget what he had done in the past – “Persecuted the church of God”
   1. He had a part in Stephen’s death (Acts 7:58; 22:20)
   2. He had made havoc of the church (Acts 8:3; Gal. 1:13)
C. Salvation does not erase memories and regrets.
   1. A reason to remember the Creator in days of youth.
   2. A reason to train children early in the right way.
   3. A reason not to put off obeying the gospel.

II. “The More Abundantly I Love You, the less I Am Loved” (2 Cor. 12:15)
A. Paul had done so much for the Corinthians.
   1. They were saved by his preaching (1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:1-4)
   2. Preached gospel to the without charge (1 Cor. 9:18; 2 Cor. 11:8)
B. Yet, evidently they did not appreciate it (cf. 2 Cor. 11:1-9)
C. It is so sad when genuine love is not returned.
   1. Parents and children
   2. Husbands and wives.
   3. Friends and Friends
   4. God and us (Rom. 5:8)

III. “No Man Stood with Me.” (2 Tim. 4:16)
A. Paul was having troubles.
   1. Suffered great evil from Alexander (v. 14)
   2. Had to defend himself – not physically but verbally (v. 16)
B. How sad these words: “No man stood with me, but all men forsook me.”
   1. No Christian should have to bear a burden alone (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 15:1-4)
   2. Of course, he not really alone - Lord with him (2 Cor. 4:17)
   3. But, he needs support of fellows Christians as well.
C. Cannot sit in our “ivory tower” and say that is his/her problem.
   1. It is true that we should mind our own business (1 Thess. 4:11 NKJ; cf. Prov. 26:17)
   2. It is not true that we should never “get involved.”
      a. When we see one doing harm to himself.
      b. When we see one being harmed by others.
      c. Sure, there is risk involved, but risk we must take.

Conclusion:
A. If we had been there, would we have tried to cheer Paul in his time of sadness?
B. But, we are here when some brother has other sad and trying times - are we there for him?