

# 2 Timothy 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

## Analysis

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**The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.** Paul makes practical requests revealing his humanity. "The cloke" (ton phailonēn, τὸν φαῖλόνην) refers to a heavy outer garment for cold weather—think winter coat. He left it at Troas with Carpus (otherwise unknown believer) probably during hasty departure after arrest. Roman prisons were cold, dark dungeons, especially in winter (v. 21). This detail shows Paul's physical vulnerability—he felt cold like anyone else and needed practical provision.

"The books, but especially the parchments" (ta biblia, malista tas membranas, τὰ βιβλία, μάλιστα τὰς μεμβράνας). Biblion (βιβλίον) means book, scroll—possibly Old Testament Scriptures or other writings. Membrana (μεμβράνα) means parchment—expensive animal skin used for important documents, possibly Paul's personal notes, copies of his letters, or Scripture portions. The emphasis "especially" reveals Paul's priorities: even facing death, he wants Scripture and study materials.

This touching request reveals several truths:

1. Spiritual maturity doesn't eliminate physical needs—Paul needed warmth.
2. Faithful ministers study until the end—Paul wanted books even in prison facing execution.
3. Scripture remains central—the parchments (likely Scripture) mattered most.
4. Details matter to God—this "trivial" request is preserved in Scripture.

Paul's example of studying Scripture to the end inspires believers facing terminal illness or old age to remain engaged with God's Word until final breath.

## Historical Context

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Roman prisons offered no amenities. Prisoners depended on friends for food, clothing, and necessities. Winter cold in unheated stone dungeons was severe. Paul's request for a cloak and books shows dependence on friends' provision. The detail about parchments suggests Paul valued written documents—possibly the only copies of his letters or precious Scripture scrolls. Ancient books were expensive, laboriously hand-copied. That Paul wanted them in prison shows their value. Some suggest the parchments were blank pages for continued writing, but "especially" suggests existing precious texts, likely Scripture.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Do you remain diligent in studying Scripture and growing in knowledge even when facing trials, suffering, or approaching life's end?
2. How can you support those in prison or suffering by providing practical necessities they need?
3. What does Paul's prioritizing of Scripture and books teach about lifelong learning and the centrality of God's Word?

## Interlinear Text

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τὸν	φαιλόνην	ὅν	ἀπέλιπον	ἐν	Τρωάδι	παρὰ	Κάρπω
G3588	<b>The cloke</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>I left</b>	<b>at</b>	<b>Troas</b>	<b>with</b>	<b>Carpus</b>
	G5341	G3739	G620	G1722	G5174	G3844	G2591
ἐρχόμενος	φέρε	καὶ	τὰ	βιβλία	μάλιστα	τὰς	
<b>when thou comest</b>	<b>bring</b>	<b>with thee and</b>	G3588	<b>the books</b>	<b>but especially</b>	G3122	G3588
	G2064	G5342	G2532	G975			
μεμβράνας							
<b>the parchments</b>							
	G3200						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 16:11** (Parallel theme): Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

**Acts 16:8** (Parallel theme): And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

**1 Corinthians 4:11** (Parallel theme): Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;