

FINISHING WELL
2 Timothy 4:6-22
5/28/17

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Every journey begins by knowing your destination.

Knowing where you are going defines your journey.

Likewise spiritually: Knowing our destination should define the whole course of our lives.

1. To finish well we must have a clear perspective of life. 4:6-8

a. The Christian life is an offering to God. v. 6

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

You and I should view our lives and live our lives as offerings to God.

- ◆ We were created by God and for God.
- ◆ God provides for us and cares for us in this life.
- ◆ Christ poured out His life on a cross so that you and I might be forgiven of all our sins.
- ◆ God has prepared a place for us in heaven.

Our lives belong to Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 . . . you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

b. Life is a fight. v. 7a

- We fight the temptations of our own flesh
- We must fight opposition from the world with its diversions, false values, ridicule, and persecution.
- We fight against the hostility and deception of Satan and his minions

c. Life is a journey. v. 7b

- Paul is saying that he has finally completed the course God had laid out for him
 - ◆ I came across some sad statistics about pastors.
 - ◇ 80% of seminary and Bible school graduates who enter the ministry will leave the ministry within the first 5 years.
 - ◇ Only 10% will retire as pastors
- Paul's goal was to finish his race.

Acts 20:24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

- You and I, like Paul, are here to accomplish the ministry that God had assigned to us.
- Each of us has a unique course specifically marked out for us by God.

- ◆ We have different spiritual gifts, different opportunities, and different obstacles to overcome.
- ◆ You don't have to run my course, and I don't have to run yours.
- Some courses may seem harder than others, but the goal is the same.
 - ◆ To present ourselves to God and successfully fulfill the ministry that God has set out for us.
- Paul had accomplished the ministry that God had assigned to him.
 - ◆ He had stayed true to the word of God.
 - ◆ He had guarded the treasure that had been entrusted to him.
 - ◆ He had maintained his faith in Christ in the midst of all hard things that life had to throw at him.
- It is my heart's desire that you all finish well.

d. A life well-lived will be rewarded. v. 8

- When the fight is over, when our journey reaches its destination God will give us our rewards.
 - ◆ The crown of righteousness may refer to the final righteous state of believers, or
 - ◆ The crown of righteousness may be a victory crown.
 - ◇ Our reward for righteous living
- Christ will give a crown, not only to Paul, but to **all who have loved his appearing**

Make it your goal in life to finish well.

To finish well you must have a clear perspective why you are here and where you are going.

Don't get discouraged . . .

2. To finish well we must accept the fact that life is filled with friends and foes. 4:9-18

a. Some will reject the truth. vv. 3-4

b. Some will fail you. vv. 9-10a

10a Demas had at one time been a close friend and associate of Paul's.

Philemon 1:24 Demas is called a "fellow worker"

Colossians 4:14 He is included in those sending greetings

Demas' departure must have deeply grieved Paul.

- ◆ He is someone that Paul cared about and probably depended upon.

Pastor and writer **Kent Hughes** has written:

"I can testify that over the years the greatest heartaches have not come from enemies but from those who began so well, who raised my hopes high, only to become lovers of this world rather than lovers of Christ."

Our deepest hurts come from people we love.

People in whom we have invested our lives!!!

c. Some will remain faithful, stick with you and encourage you. vv. 10b-13

Timothy, Luke, Mark, Crescens, Titus, and Tychicus had remained faithful and were great encouragements to Paul.

Many of you have been great encouragements to me!!

Mark had deserted Paul on his first missionary journey.

◆ But Mark had changed and become a valued servant to Barnabas, Peter, and Paul.

What a joy to see that God continues to work in the lives of Christians.

Philippians 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

d. Some will actively oppose you. 4:14-15

• Sometimes opposition comes from outside the church and at other times its comes from those within the church.

◆ The Alexander mentioned here cannot be identified with certainty.

◇ He may or may not be the same Alexander that Paul mentions in 1 Timothy 1:20 who was placed under church discipline and removed from the church.

◇ He also may have been the one who brought the false charges against Paul.

• The Lord will repay him.

Paul left vengeance in God's hands

Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

e. Some will desert you. v. 16

• Notice Paul's attitude of forgiveness.

f. The Lord will always stand by you and strengthen you. vv. 17-18

• Paul expects to be executed.

• Yet Paul knew that the Lord will never "leave or forsake" those who belong to Him. (Deut. 31:6, 8; Josh. 1:5; 1 Chron. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

• Even through death God will bring us safely into his heavenly kingdom (cf. Luke 21:16–19).

2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

g. Some will remain friends forever. vv. 19-22

Truths That Matter

Guard the Treasure. 1:14 cf 1 Timothy 6:20

Fulfill your ministry.

Finish well.

We are not saved primarily for our own sakes. We are saved for the glory of God and to fulfill His calling.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."