

PAUL'S CHARGE.....2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8, NLT

¹I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ²Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

³For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

⁵But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

⁶As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

"No other passage in Scripture describes more accurately the day in which we live." – RAY STEDMAN

HOW DO WE FINISH WELL?

1. We _____ Paul's charge (vv. 1-2)

2 TIMOTHY 2:19. "God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone."

ROMANS 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes."

2. We _____ false teaching (vv. 3-4)

2 TIMOTHY 1:9, 13-14. "God saved us and called us to live a holy life... Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you."

3. We _____ steadfast (vv. 5)

2 TIMOTHY 1:8. "Never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord."

2 TIMOTHY 2:10. "I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory to Christ Jesus to those God has chosen."

4. We _____ to get derailed (vv. 6-7)

HEBREWS 12:1. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

5. We _____ our reward! (v. 8)

PHILIPPIANS 3:14. "I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:25-27. "All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified."