

Finishing Strong

Paul's Valedictory

Lesson 01

Finishing Strong

2 Timothy 4:6-8

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Emeritus

SPEAKING:Emeritus:Finishing Strong





Lesson Outline

Lesson 01 - Outline

■ Finishing Strong: Paul's Valedictory

- Lesson 01: Finishing Strong

- ✓ **SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT**

- Scripture Text - 2 Timothy 4:6-8

- ✓ **FINISHING STRONG**

- Paul Looked Around
(2 Timothy 4:6)
- Paul Looked Back
(2 Timothy 4:7)
- Paul Looked Ahead
(2 Timothy 4:8)
- Heaven: How do I receive the crown?
(Salvation Message)
- Close in Prayer
(Sinner's Prayer)





Heaven

Scriptural Context

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Scriptural Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

PAUL'S VALEDICTORY

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. ... 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ...NKJV

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Paul Looked Around - 2 Timothy 4:6 - OBSERVATIONS

• Paul Looked Around

- Paul realized that his time was short. He was on trial in Rome and had been through the first hearing (2 Tim 4:17).
- But Paul knew that the end was near. However, he did not tremble at the prospect of death!
- The two words "offered" and "departure" (2 Tim 4:6) tell us of his faith and confidence.
- "Offered" means "poured out on the altar as a drink-offering." He used the same picture in [Philippians 2:7-8](#).
- In effect Paul was saying, "Caesar is not going to kill me. I am going to give my life as a sacrifice to Jesus Christ. I have been a living sacrifice, serving Him since the day I was saved. Now I will complete that sacrifice by laying down my life for Him."

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

--- 2 Timothy 4:6 ... NKJV

DO WE HAVE
FAITH AND
CONFIDENCE IN
OUR OWN
DEPARTURE?

IS YOUR FAITH IN
CHRIST - WHO
DIED FOR YOU?

Paul Looked Around - 2 Timothy 4:6 - OBSERVATIONS

• Paul Looked Around

- The word **departure** (2 Tim 4:6) is a beautiful word that has many meanings.
 - It means "to hoist anchor and set sail."
 - Paul looked on death as a release from the world, an opportunity to "set sail" into eternity.
 - The word also means "to take down a tent."
 - This parallels 2 Cor 5:1-8, where Paul compared the death of believers to the taking down of a tent (tabernacle), in order to receive a permanent, glorified body ("house not made with hands" - a glorified body, not a "mansion" in heaven).
 - **Departure** also has the meaning of "loosing a prisoner."
 - Paul was facing release, not execution! "
 - The "unyoking of an ox" is another meaning of this word.
 - Paul had been in hard service for many years.
 - Now his Master would unyoke him and promote him to higher service.

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

--- 2 Timothy 4:6 ... NKJV

DO YOU LOOK
FORWARD TO SET
SAIL FOR
ETERNITY?

DO YOU SEE
DEATH AS A
RELEASE OR EVEN
A PROMOTION?

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Paul Looked Back - 2 Timothy 4:7 - OBSERVATIONS

- **The “I have” Triplet** - *signature of the Holy Spirit*
 - Paul summed up his life and ministry.
 - Two of the images here are **athletic**:
 - Like a determined wrestler or boxer,
 - I have fought the good fight;
 - Like a runner,
 - he had finished his lifelong race victoriously.
 - He had kept the rules and deserved a prize ([Acts 20:24](#); [Phil 3:13-14](#)).
 - The third image is that of a **steward** who had faithfully guarded his boss' deposit:
 - “I have kept the faith” ([2 Tim 4:7](#)).
 - Paul used this image often in his pastoral letters.
 - It is heartening to be able to **look back** and have no regrets. Paul was not always popular, nor was he usually comfortable; but he remained faithful. That is what really counted.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
--- 2 Timothy 4:7 ... NKJV

CAN WE LOOK BACK
ON OUR LIFE AND
CONCLUDE, WE HAVE
FOUGHT THE GOOD
FIGHT, WE HAVE
FINISHED THE RACE,
AND WE HAVE
REMAINED FAITHFUL?

**WE ALL NEED
GOD’S GRACE!**

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Paul Looked Ahead - 2 Timothy 4:8 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Paul Looked Ahead**

- A Greek or Roman athlete who was a winner was rewarded by the crowds and usually received a laurel wreath or a garland of oak leaves.
- The word for "crown" is *stephanos* - the victor's crown, we get our name **Stephen** from this word.
 - The kingly crown is *diadema*, from which we get "diadem."
- However, Paul would not be given a fading crown of leaves; his would be a crown of righteousness that would never fade.

⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

--- 2 Timothy 4:8 ... NKJV

Paul Looked Ahead - 2 Timothy 4:8 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Paul Looked Ahead**

- Jesus Christ is the "righteous Judge" who always judges correctly.
- Paul's judges in Rome were not righteous. If they were, they would have released him.
- How many times Paul had been tried in one court after another, yet now he faced his last Judge - his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- The crown of righteousness is God's reward for a faithful and righteous life;
- and our incentive for faithfulness and holiness is the promise of the Lord's appearing.
- Because Paul loved His appearing and looked for it, he lived righteously and served faithfully.

⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

--- 2 Timothy 4:8 ... NKJV

WHEN YOU ARE
READY TO FACE
THE LORD, YOU
NEED NOT FEAR
THE JUDGMENT OF
MEN.

Paul Looked Ahead - 2 Timothy 4:8 - OBSERVATIONS

- Paul Looked Ahead

- We are not called to be apostles;
- yet we can win the same crown that Paul won.
- IF we
 - love Christ's appearing,
 - live in obedience to His will,
 - and do the work He has called us to do,
- THEN we will be crowned.

⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

--- 2 Timothy 4:8 ... NKJV

IN ORDER TO BE CROWNED WITH THE CROWN OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS, WE NEED TO BE "BORN-AGAIN".

AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST WE LOVE HIS APPEARING - OUR
BLESSED HOPE.

WE ARE PREPARED FOR HEAVEN - FOR ETERNAL LIFE!

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Heaven: How do I receive the crown?

- Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people
- Are you prepared to go? - Bible says you can know for certain
- What do I need to do in order to know for certain I am prepared?
- The answer is easy as A-B-C. ... A-Accept, B-Believe, C-Confess

- **CONFESS:**

- That you are a sinner, in need of God's forgiveness.
- Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- **BELIEVE:**

- That Jesus is God's son, sent to die for (take away) your sins.
- Romans 6:23 ... For the wages of sin /is death, but the gift of God /is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 5:8 ... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **ACCEPT:**

- Jesus' death and resurrection as the sacrifice for your sins, and relinquish control of your life.
- Romans 10:9 ... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

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Close in Prayer

- **Sinner's Prayer** .. *{Close our eyes, bow our heads and hearts}*
 - Father I thank-you for who you are, and for what you've done
 - I thank you for sending Jesus to seek and to save us
 - I thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to guide and keep us.
 - I pray now for those who do not know you as Savior and Lord
 - I pray that they would repeat the words of the following prayer - in their hearts
-
- *"Father God, I confess that I am a sinner in need of a Savior*
 - *I believe that You sent Jesus, Your son, to die for me on the cross*
 - *I believe that You raised Him from the dead*
 - *I accept Your offer of pardon for my sins - Your offer of salvation*
 - *I accept You as the Lord of my life - I relinquish control to the Holy Spirit*
 - *I pray that You will challenge me and change me to be more like Your Son and my Savior - Jesus the Christ ... In whose name I pray" --- AMEN*
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- IF you've prayed that prayer for the 1st time THEN welcome to the Family of God
 - Heaven is now prepared for you ... Your Eternity is fixed ... Sealed for all time.

