

# HOPE FOR MY FINISH

## Hope for the Future: Epilogue

April 23, 2017

Pastor Brian

*“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers...” (Acts 13:36, ESV)*

*“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus...” (Acts 20:24, NLT)*

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” (2 Timothy 4:7, NLT)*

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.” (1 Corinthians 9:24, NIV)*

## HOW TO END WELL

### 1. REMOVE DISTRACTIONS.

*“Teach me your way, O LORD, so that I may live in your truth. Focus my heart on fearing you.” (Psalm 86:11, GW)*

*“Since we have such a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands, let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1, The Living Bible)*

*“...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race...” (Philippians 3:13–14, NLT)*

### 2. REMEMBER THE REASON AND THE REWARD.

*“By your hand save me from [the wicked], LORD, from those of this world whose reward is in this life...” (Psalm 17:14, NIV)*

*“One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: “Power belongs to you, God, and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”; and, “You reward everyone according to what they have done.”” (Psalm 62:11–12, NIV)*

*"To win the contest you must deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes to all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step..." (1 Corinthians 9:25–26, The Living Bible)*

*"For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts for ever." (2 Corinthians 4:18, GNB)*

### **3. RENEW MYSELF DAILY.**

*"As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God." (Psalm 42:1, NLT)*

*"...Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day." (2 Corinthians 4:16, GNB)*

*"When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer." (Psalm 94:19, NLT)*

### **4. RESIST DISCOURAGEMENT.**

*"Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!" (Psalm 42:5-6a, NLT)*

*"And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." (Galatians 6:9, The Living Bible)*

*"You need to keep on patiently doing God's will if you want him to do for you all that he has promised." (Hebrews 10:36, The Living Bible)*

*"But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!" (Habakkuk 2:3, The Living Bible)*

### **5. RELY ON CHRIST.**

*"This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him." (Psalm 91:2, NLT)*

*"That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me." (Colossians 1:29, NLT)*

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another...Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10–11, NLT)*

**ACTION:**

**Prayer Partners for Macedonia**

**The Bible App: The Parables of Jesus (36-day Reading Plan)**