DAY 23

2 Timothy 4:7-8

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

In the final days of the Apostle Paul's life, he could look back and with confidence say to Timothy that he had completed the purpose that God ordained for his life. Paul had an unshakable belief that the only thing worthy of a person's life was to advance the message of Jesus Christ to a lost world. How could Paul sacrifice everything for the sake of the gospel? Knowing that the reward that awaited him in heaven was worth far more than anything he might have to sacrifice on earth was the key to Paul's perspective. Paul's hope was not just for himself. The reward in heaven that awaited Paul for living his life on mission for God is the same reward that awaits EVERY child of God who embraces the call of God upon their life to spread the gospel. Paul placed his hope in Christ's appearing (return) and it empowered him to live this life fully devoted to Christ. The same is true for each of us. Are you seeking a "crown" that this world offers (money, success, fame, etc.) or do you long for the day that Christ returns and because of that hope you are fully devoted to running the race for the "crown" that awaits you when you finish your race that God has called you to run?

How can you apply this passage to your life? Write your reflections in the space below.

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30 Days Of HOPE