

Sermon Notes 10/16/22

“Finish the Race”

What does it take to finish the race well?

1. It takes _____ ourselves to God.

2 Timothy 4:6

Acts 20:24

Romans 12:1

2. It takes _____ to be with Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:8

Philippians 1:21-24

3. It takes _____ together in Christ.

2 Timothy 4:11

Ephesians 4:15-16

4. It takes _____ in God’s grace.

2 Timothy 4:18

2 Corinthians 12:9-10



According to tradition, Paul spent the last days of his life on earth in this cell in the Mamertine Prison.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 7: October 16

2 Timothy 4:6-22

2 Timothy chapter 4 contains the final words of the Apostle Paul that are recorded in Scripture. Paul was locked up in a cold dark prison in Rome expecting to be put to death. All his friends had left him except Luke. He desperately wanted Timothy to come and see him before his execution. However, he knew that the Lord was with him, and he would soon be with Jesus in His heavenly kingdom. In this passage, Paul reminds Timothy what it takes to finish the race well and receive the crown of righteousness.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-22

1 What was Paul ready for in verse 6?

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell write,

Paul borrowed the vivid image of "being poured out like a drink offering" from the Jewish custom of pouring out wine at the base of the altar as part of the ritual sacrifice of a lamb (cf. Exodus 29:40-41; Leviticus 23:13; Numbers 15:1-12; 28:7, 24). The image of red wine splashing down upon the altar became an operative metaphor for how Paul regarded his life... Though there would be some more time before the event (he will ask for his books and a warm coat, 2 Tim. 4:13), the last drops of Paul's blood were in a sense beginning to fall.¹

2. How did Paul describe the course of his life in verse 7?

William Hendriksen notes,

Paul, by means of the word-order which he selects (placing each of the three objects before its verb) emphasizes that it was, indeed *the* "beautiful," *grand*, or noble, *fight* which he had fought; that it was not the path of chance but the *scheduled race* which he had run; and that this life of his, now viewed as finished, had been ruled not by whim or caprice of the moment

¹ R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1-2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 276.

but by *that personal faith* which by God's grace he had kept to the very end.²

3. What did Paul say he was going to receive from the Lord? (4:8)

4. To whom will God award a crown of righteousness? (4:8)

C. Michael Moss observes,

The reward will not be immediate but must wait for "that day," a clear reference to the second coming or "appearing" of Jesus in v. 1. With this Paul concludes his admonition to Timothy and perhaps sets up the contrast in v. 9 with Demas who has "loved this [present] world."³

5. What did Paul ask Timothy to do in verse 9?

6. What had Demas done? Why? (4:10)

Hughes and Chapell write,

Demas' departure devastated Paul. Your deepest hurts can only come from people you love, your deepest disappointments from the destruction of your deepest hopes. What a bitter pill this was for Paul. I can testify that over years of ministry 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.⁴

Paul was explaining to Timothy why Luke was the only person who still with him. Some of Paul's fellow workers had ministry responsibilities to take care of. Paul sent Titus to Dalmatia. This was about two years after Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in the churches there (Titus 1:5). Like Timothy, Titus was also trained in ministry by Paul. Titus is also mentioned several times in 2 Corinthians and Galatians.

² William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary Exposition of the Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1957), 314.

³ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 241-242.

⁴ Hughes and Chapell, *1-2 Timothy and Titus*, 286.

7. Who was still with Paul? (4:11)

Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy in Troas on Paul's second missionary journey. He was also a physician. Luke and Demas were both with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment (Col. 4:14; Phile. 24).

8. Why did Paul want Timothy to bring Mark? (4:11)

Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark. He is also mentioned in Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37-39; Col. 4:10; Phile. 1:24, and 1 Peter 5:13.

9. Whom did Paul send to Ephesus? (4:12)

10. What did Paul want Timothy to bring with him? (4:13)

11. Who did Paul say about Alexander? (4:14-15, see also 1 Tim. 1:20)

12. What happened at Paul's first defense? (4:16)

13. What did the Lord do for Paul in verse 17?

14. What did Paul believe the Lord would do for him in verse 18?

15. Who did Paul tell Timothy to greet? (4:19)

Priscilla and Aquila were tentmakers along with Paul. They first met Paul in Corinth on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-3). Paul also mentions Priscilla and Aquila in Romans 16:3 and 1 Corinthians 16:19.

16. What did Paul say about Erastus and Trophimus? (4:20)

17. When did Paul want Timothy to come? (4:21)

18. How can we encourage those who are struggling with doubts?

19. How can you encourage a Christian in his or her ministry?

20. What can you do to fight the good fight of the faith this week?