



"The Fight, the Finish, and the Crown"

Pastor Jason West | August 30, 2026

I. The _____

A. My Life is an _____

2 Timothy 4:6a "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering"

Numbers 15:10 "And you shall offer for the drink offering half a hin of wine, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord." (cf. Exodus 29:40-41; Leviticus 23:13; Numbers 28:24).

Philippians 2:17 "Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all."

Mark 8:35 "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

B. My Death is a _____

2 Timothy 4:6b "and the time of my departure has come."

Philippians 1:21-23 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."

1 Thessalonians 4:13b "you may not grieve as others do who have no hope"

II. The _____

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

A. Fight the _____ Fight

2 Timothy 4:7a "I have fought the good fight"

• Not Every Fight is Worth Fighting

2 Timothy 2:23 "Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels."

1 Timothy 6:12a "Fight the good fight of the faith."

B. _____ Your Race

2 Timothy 4:7b "finished the race"

Acts 20:24 "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Acts 13:25 "And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'"

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

1. Stay in Your _____

2. Stay in the Race

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

C. Keep the _____

2 Timothy 4:7c "kept the faith"

1 Timothy 6:20a "Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you."

2 Timothy 1:14 "By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."

2 Timothy 2:2 "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

Jude 1:3b "contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

III. The _____

2 Timothy 4:8 "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."

1 Corinthians 9:25 "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

Titus 2:13 "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"

Isaiah 53:12b "he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors."

Matthew 26:28 "for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."



August 30, 2026

BACKGROUND:

Considering that Paul is writing from a prison cell in Rome shortly before his execution under Emperor Nero, his second letter to Timothy can be viewed as his farewell testimony. In chapter 4, Paul gives Timothy final instructions and reflects on his own life and approaching death. In verses 1-5, Paul urgently charges Timothy to faithfully preach and teach God's Word regardless of opposition, hardship, or changing cultural trends. In today's passage (verses 6-8), Paul reflects on how he fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Verse 6: A Drink Offering

Paul compares his life of faith to a drink offering. In the Old Testament sacrificial system, a drink offering consisted of wine being poured out beside the altar as part of a sacrifice to God (Genesis 35:14; Exodus 29:40; Numbers 15:1-10). Jesus also alludes to this imagery in Luke 22:20 when He says, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood". By describing himself as being "poured out", Paul views his life and eventual death as an offering to God.

1. The Christian life is meant to be lived sacrificially. In what ways is your life a sacrificial offering to God?
2. Paul does not view death as defeat but as his final act of worship and service. What do Jesus' words, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23), and Paul's statement, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21), mean to you? How do these verses influence how you live your life?
3. What area of your life do you need to surrender or let die so that you can more faithfully take up your cross and fulfill your calling?

Verse 7: Fight the Good Fight, Finish the Race, Keep the Faith

Paul describes his ministry through three images: a soldier, an athlete, and a steward.

The Soldier: The Christian life involves spiritual warfare, perseverance, and discipline. Paul demonstrated faithfulness as he faced persecution, imprisonment, opposition, and hardship. Yet he remained loyal to Christ.

4. How do you prepare for the spiritual battles in your life?
5. What motivates you to remain loyal to Christ?
6. Is there an area of weakness in your spiritual armor that could leave you vulnerable in your walk with Christ?

The Athlete: Paul compares life and ministry to a race that requires endurance. His concern was not merely starting well but finishing well. Throughout Scripture, perseverance is a mark of genuine faith. Believers are called to endure until the end. Perseverance and endurance are essential to the Christian journey (Hebrews 10:36).

7. Would you honestly describe yourself as one who consistently perseveres spiritually?
8. Where do you see a need for greater endurance in the midst of adversity or hardship?
9. How does the promise of the gospel and the person of the Holy Spirit help you persevere?

The Steward: A good steward faithfully guards and preserves what has been entrusted to him. Like Paul, believers are called to guard the gospel and the teachings of Jesus. We are encouraged to keep the faith.

10. In what ways do you guard sound doctrine in your life?
11. How do you remain faithful to Jesus when pressured to compromise?
12. How can you encourage others to remain loyal to the gospel message?

Verse 8: A Crown of Righteousness

Unlike the perishable crown or wreath awarded to victors in athletic competitions, believers are promised a crown of righteousness. This everlasting reward is not earned through human effort but is graciously given to all who love the Lord and eagerly await His return. Through discouragement, persecution, suffering, and even death, believers can be confident that their true reward is found in Christ and eternity with Him (Philippians 3:20).

13. The crown of righteousness is not earned by human merit but given through God's grace. In what ways have you experienced God's grace in your life?
14. As Paul awaited judgment from a human court, he pointed Timothy to the Lord, the righteous Judge. Jesus instructs us to "judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). What does righteous judgment look like in today's culture?
15. God promises this crown to all believers who long for Christ's return, live in expectation of His coming, and remain faithful to Him. How does anticipation of Christ's return influence the way you live today?

TAKING IT HOME:

Paul encourages us through his letter to Timothy to live as sacrifices devoted to God, endure through difficulties, hold firmly to the truth of the gospel, finish well, and eagerly look forward to Christ's return.

16. As you reflect on your life, how does your confidence rest in Christ?
17. What changes do you need to make today to help ensure that you continually endure, persevere, and finish the race well?
18. How has this study of Second Timothy enhanced your walk with Jesus?