

## October 31st<sup>h</sup> – Finish Well

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

When I was a senior in high school, I can remember a boxer named George Foreman trying to make a comeback. These days, he is known more for grills, but in his prime George Foreman was scary good. But at the age of 45, no one expected him to make any real noise on the heavyweight scene. All that changed when he fought Michael Moorer for the heavyweight title in November 1994. After taking a beating for nine rounds, in round number 10 George Foreman knocked out Michael Moorer to become the oldest heavyweight champion in the history of the United States.

I also recall watching a race in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. A British runner, Derek Redmond, was competing in the 400 meter dash. About halfway through the race, Redmond checked up very quickly and it was obvious he had torn his hamstring. Overcome with pain, Redmond did not give up. In a moment for the ages, Redmond hopped down the track toward the finish line. About 100 meters from the end, a man came and put his arm around Redmond and helped him to the finish line. It was his father. Together, father and son finished the race.

The human tendency is to give up when life gets difficult. As a follower of Christ, no one experienced more adversity than the Apostle Paul (read 2 Cor. 11:23-28). Yet, he was determined to be faithful to Christ until the very end of his life. In his last recorded letter of the New Testament, Paul was happy to announce that he had not given up. Rather, he kept the faith. What about you? Are you on the verge of quitting? The Christian life is not a sprint, it is a marathon. When you think you can't take another step, your Heavenly Father will be there to see you safely home. Keep on fighting and running!