

Pursuing Christ in 2026

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

p. ###

Introduction: Perseverance is a Christian virtue.

A faithful model of perseverance: the Apostle Paul

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, ESV)

1. Maintain a Priority on God's Word.

- ★ We will work to store God's Word in our hearts.

This week's memory verse:

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*
(Psalm 115:1, ESV)

"More heresy is preached in application than in Bible exegesis..."

- Haddon Robinson

→ If we value God's Word, we will trust it... memorize it,
marinate our minds in it,
seek to master it,
and to become mastered by it.

2. Commit to a Deliberate Discipleship.

The 3 'ship's of 2026: discipleship, relationship,
and leadership.

★ We will seek meaningful accountability.

★ We will invest in future leaders.

3. Pursue the Glory of God.

★ We will long for and pray for the glory of God.

"If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased." — C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

A longing for the glory of God...

- (1) points us to and prepares us for eternity,
- (2) shapes our perspective and guides us through this life,
- (3) strengthens us to finish well.

Prayer Emphases for 2026:

- ✚ Pray that we can memorize and be transformed by Scripture.
- ✚ Pray for meaningful relationships that encourage godliness.
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