

Intro: BEBOP visit. "Are you looking forward to seeing Jesus? "He's my best friend." "When you see Him, can you do me a favor...?" "I'll tell Him you said hello." I didn't go to encourage him, I went to be encouraged. Amazing amount of Clarity, resolve, wisdom and hope for the believer who knows they're dying. Nothing left to do here on earth. They've done all they can.

Thesis: *"Live your life and die your death for the glory of Jesus"*

I. Almost Done

- A. **v.6 Drink Offering.** Final sacrifice. Last offering to LORD. *I'm giving Him the last of me.*
- B. **v.7 Time of my departure has come.** He knows he's nearing the end of his life.
- C. **HAVE fought good fight** (1.6.12). **HAVE finished race** (Act20:24). **HAVE kept faith.**
- D. **v.8 Crown waiting for me.** Victor's crown. Race. Glory. For every believer. Conquerors.
- E. **For me...to live is Christ, but to die is gain.** "Be with the Lord."
- F. **v.18** *"Lord will rescue me from every evil deed (I've done), bring safely to His kingdom."*

ILLUSTRATION: Some people have the habit of reading **obituaries**. **Lux Narayan** studied over 2,000 obituaries and discovered something interesting. Maybe that seems morbid at first. What people most remember about you when you die is not how much money you made or even how successful you were in business. How you impacted people's lives. **Brad Melzer** *"He was a..."* *So he wrote his own obituary, so that he could determine what kind of life he wanted to live. How he wanted to be remembered.* What kind of person. This is like Paul writing his own obituary. *He was a man who fought well. Finished the race God gave him. Kept the faith.*

APPLICATION:

1. **Do you have this kind of confidence and hope in Jesus? Faith?**
2. **What do you want your obituary to say? "She was a..."/"He was a..."** "Always on Phone. Kept up with trends. Huge Marvel fan. Every sports statistic. Politically aware. Enjoyed peace, quiet, not troubled by people's problems. Constant state of annoyance." OR "Loved ppl well. Served sacrificially. Knew Jesus, walked w/ Him in Repentance & Faith. Humble. Kind. Gentle. Fun. Good friend. Husband. Dad. Generous. Helpful. Witness."
3. **Life is short. Press on. Fight. Finish the race. Keep faith. If older, finish well. Hope.**

II. Time to Say Goodbye

- A. **v.9:** "Come soon." **v.13:** "Bring cloak, books, parchments." **v.21** "Before Winter."
- B. **I don't have that much time left.** *Maybe he's on trial? Prison? Sick? Weak?*
- C. **v.11** "Bring Mark." **He's very useful.** *Cool! Reconciliation.*

ILLUSTRATION: Acts 15:36-40. *"And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."*

APPLICATION: Paul wants to see his friends before he goes. This who are encouragement to him, but also who he would encourage.

1. **Who would you want to see before you die?** What friends would you want at your side? Do you have any? Are you the kind of friend that someone would want at their bedside?
2. **Like Paul and Mark, is there anyone you can reconcile with before it's too late?** *You don't really know your days or their days. "As much as it is up to you..." Rom.12:18.*
3. **Who can you forgive?** **v.16** "Father forgive." Like **Jesus & Stephen.** *Paul remembers?*

CONCLUSION: v.18 "To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

1. **May Jesus Receive all the glory in my life.**
2. **May Jesus Receive all the glory in my death.**