

THE STORY
Paul's Final Days
2 Timothy
Chapter 30 April 21, 2024
Pastor Mike Popovich

Paul moved from being an antagonist to an evangelist.

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Acts 28:31 NIV

Paul gives us four responses we need to have to live consistent Christian lives.

In the face of life:

WE NEED TO KEEP ENDURING

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it.

2 Timothy 3:10-14 NIV

Jesus promised us trials and tribulations.

We are to follow his example of endurance.

WE NEED TO KEEP READING

How from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 NIV

The Bible equips believers for every good work.

We have learned that God is always at work.

God often does not show up until it is impossible.

God often does not intervene until invited.

WE NEED TO KEEP PREACHING

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

So we tell all who will listen what Jesus has done for us and continues to do for us.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

KEEP POURING YOURSELF OUT

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

2 Timothy 4:6 NIV

Paul writes his final words shortly before his execution ordered by Emperor Nero in A.D. 66.

Paul and Nero both lived in Rome.
Nero was the young flamboyant emperor.

Paul would have been seen as the old man and an odd eccentric fanatic who constantly talked about Jesus of Nazareth, asserting he was the Son of the one and true God.

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Acts 20:24 NIV

Paul is looking to heaven with anticipation.

The Christian life is more a marathon than a sprint and the celebration comes at the end.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7, 8 NIV

If you will walk with the Spirit you will be sure to finish the race.