

Sermon Study

2 Timothy 4:5-22

Finish Line

Review:

The problem:

we have a truncated view of the Christian life.

Our problem is that Paul is the illustration of a victorious Christian life :)

Central Proposition of the Text:

Paul finished well. He was awaiting execution. He was lonely. He was cold. He was bored. He was rejected yet he was a victorious ambassador of grace.

Main Idea:

The story does not stop with saints receiving grace. It stops with them sharing it.

Finish well.

2 Timothy 4:5 - Passing the torch

If you were going to die tomorrow and had to leave some last minute advice about living for Christ what would it be?

Who would you leave this advice for?

What will it take to fulfill your ministry?

Read the following article and summarize (or read) to your group: <http://www.livingwaters.com/helps/HellsBestKeptSecret.pdf>

Is the work of evangelism your work?

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - Awaiting Execution

Paul knew he was going to die. He was going to finish strong even when others did not. Discuss a time when you endured in some task or sport etc when everyone else fell away. How did you feel? Were you successful? Why did you hold on when everyone else did not?

In your life, whose applause are you going for? Do your actions and motivations reflect this? What needs to change?

Read the following and discuss: <http://www.clayjones.net/2010/07/must-you-be-willing-to-die-for-christ-yes/>

2 Timothy 4:9-12 - Lonely

Paul was lonely and wanted Timothy to visit him before he died. Read Psalm 25:16-21. Where do we get the idea that the Christian life is all sunshine and rainbows with sections like this?

Have you ever felt lonely in your service to Christ? With all of our social media do you think we are less lonely today or more so?

Loneliness and being alone are not the same thing. We meet fewer people. We gather less. And when we gather, our bonds are less meaningful and less easy. What is the answer?

2 Timothy 4:13 - Cold and Bored

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Paul was no stranger to hardship but here we see that he was clearly cold. Combined with his loneliness and his pending execution, Paul was not doing well.

What is the coldest you have ever been?

Paul did not die in a humane way (neither did Christ) and he was cold and bored before his death. How does this impact your view of God's provision for us in this life?

Read the following article and discuss: <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/my-good/>

2 Timothy 4:14-16 - Rejected

Paul was rejected at the end of his life by virtually everyone, just like Christ. Ours is a religion of rejection.

Have you ever been dumped? Rejected? How did you feel about your self?

Embracing rejection is part of Christianity. We serve a rejected Savior. That doesn't make rejection any easier.

Read the following article about Jesus' rejection: <http://theresurgence.com/2010/03/02/8-things-that-might-compel-you-to-reject-jesus>

Are these reasons you might face rejection from the world? Discuss.

2 Timothy 4:17-18 - Victorious

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Even though Paul faced rejection he was not forsaken. Jesus faced that for him. Remember that even though we may be rejected we will never be forsaken by God. Jesus faced that for us too.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the promise we are given as we go forth to make disciples?

Read Romans 8:31-39. How could Paul claim such victory considering the circumstances he faced?

2 Timothy 4:19-22 - Grace- free, costly, contagious

Grace is free to receive. Read, Romans 5:6-8 Ephesians 2:8-10

Grace is not meant to be hoarded though. Read Matthew 18:21-35

Even though grace is free to receive, Grace is costly to give. Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-12. Giving grace will cost you everything just like it did Christ.

This is the cost of giving grace

Affliction

Doubt

Persecution

And death

But it is nothing

You will not be crushed by affliction

You will not be driven to despair by doubt

You will not be forsaken when persecuted

And you will not be destroyed by death

Grace is the gift this world needs and you have it - it is true that giving grace will cost you everything. But when you have grace you have everything to give.

What will you do with this grace? What will it take for you to finish well?