

California College Conference
LOVING THE LORD'S APPEARING (1)

**I. If we truly love the Lord, we will love His appearing—
2 Tim. 4:8:**

- A. The appearing of Christ must be the basic factor in our daily living; we must live everyday in the light of the Lord's appearing—Titus 2:11-13.
- B. Loving the Lord's appearing is in contrast to loving the present age, the world now before our eyes—2 Tim. 4:10a, 8.

II. Keep the faith—2 Tim. 4:7c:

- A. The faith mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:7 refers to the things in which we believe, that is, our Christian faith, which is composed of the beliefs concerning the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16), God (1 Tim. 2:5a; Matt. 28:19), Christ (John 1:1, 14), the work of Christ (1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Cor. 15:4; Acts 2:33), salvation (Rom. 10:9), and the church (Eph 1:22-23).
- B. We need to be nourished with the words of the faith—1 Tim. 4:6.
- C. Paul charged Timothy to fight the good fight of the faith; concerning the faith, we must be bold, strong, and definite, ready to contend for the faith —1 Tim. 6:12; Jude 3.

I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing. —**2 Tim. 4:7-8**

For the grace of God, bringing salvation to all men, has appeared, training us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age, awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. —**Titus 2:11-13**

For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age. —**2 Tim. 4:10a**

If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed. —**1 Tim. 4:6**

Fight the good fight of the faith. —**1 Tim. 6:12a**

Beloved, while using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you and exhort you to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. —**Jude 3**

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LOVING THE LORD'S APPEARING (2)

III. Finish the course—2 Tim. 4:7b:

- A. Paul began to run the course of the heavenly race after he was taken possession of by the Lord, and he ran continually that he might finish it—1 Cor. 9:24-26; Acts 20:24.
- B. We need to seek out the journey that the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it, paying any price to wholeheartedly continue on our journey until we reach the end— Phil. 3:12-14.
- C. We need to run the race with endurance, suffering the opposition with endurance and never growing weary or fainting in our souls—Heb. 12:2-3.
- D. It was not until the last moment of his running the race that the apostle Paul could triumphantly proclaim, “I have finished the course,” and have the assurance that he would be rewarded by the Lord at His appearing—2 Tim. 4:7-8.

I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing. —**2 Tim. 4:7-8**

Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold. And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible. I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air. —**1 Cor. 9:24-26**

But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God. —**Acts 20:24**

Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward. —**Phil. 3:12-14**

Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. For compare Him who has endured such contradiction by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary, fainting in your souls. —**Heb. 12:2-3**

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LOVING THE LORD'S APPEARING (3)

IV. Fight the good fight—2 Tim. 4:7a:

- A. A proper Christian life involves fighting the good fight against Satan and his kingdom of darkness for the interests of God's kingdom—Eph. 6:10-19.
- B. To fight the good fight of the faith means to fight in particular for Christ and for the church—1 Tim 6:12; Eph. 5:32.
- C. As those who would fight the good fight, we need to lay hold on the eternal life—1 Tim. 6:12b.
- D. "No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life"; this means that to fight the good fight for God's interests on earth, we need to clear away all earthly entanglements—2 Tim. 2:4.

I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing. —**2 Tim. 4:7-8**

Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, for our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. —**Eph. 6:10-13**

Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses. —**1 Tim. 6:12**

This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church. —**Eph. 5:32**