

# LIVE WITH THE END IN MIND

2 Timothy 4:6-8

The Bible teaches us to live our lives now in light of our final accountability before Jesus. In 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Paul alerted Timothy to the fact that a growing percentage of people in the Ephesian Church would reject Timothy's teaching. Be that as it may, Paul charged Timothy to persist in preaching the Word because every human being is going to be judged by Jesus.

Here, in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Paul contemplated the judgment he himself will receive from Jesus. Here is the main idea of these verses.

***His ministry complete, his death imminent, Paul looked forward to receiving the crown of righteousness which Jesus will give every believer, who, like Paul, loved and served Him faithfully.***

**2 Tim. 4:6** In verse 6, Paul contemplated his final days.

Paul described the completion of his service to Jesus as pouring out the last drops of wine from the cup of a drink offering in the Temple (Lev. 23:13). His death he described as a departure such as a ship departing from a dock to sail to a new destination. Far from morbid, these metaphors describe his life as an act of worship and his death as the beginning of a new adventure. I hope we all share Paul's perspective.

**2 Tim. 4:7** In verse 7, Paul evaluated his service for Jesus.

What was Paul conveying through these metaphors? "I have fought the good fight" means "I worked hard for the right cause". The Greek focuses on intense effort and the rightness of the cause for which Paul labored so intensely. Paul gave his all to the cause of Christ.

"I have finished the race" means "I have accomplished that which Jesus called me to do." As recorded in Acts 9, Jesus called Paul "...to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15). This, Paul had done.

"I have kept the faith" means "I defended the truths of Jesus Christ so that the true gospel might continue to spread throughout the world."

These three metaphors provide us three good questions by which to evaluate our Christian lives.

- Are we working hard for the right cause, the cause of Christ?
- Are we doing what Jesus calls us to do in our unique life circumstances?
- Are we staying true to the sound teaching of the Bible so that the truth might continue to go out to our community and the world?

In sum, Paul evaluated his Christian life and concluded he had served Jesus faithfully. As a result, Paul believed that at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) Jesus, the righteous Judge, will conclude the same.

**2 Tim. 4:8** Paul made clear this reward, from Jesus, is available to every believer who has "loved his appearing". We understand "his appearing" to refer to the incarnation of Jesus, His first "appearance", His first coming. To love His appearing expresses itself in valuing everything about Jesus and wanting to participate in Jesus' Kingdom program. Jesus made clear that those who love Him will obey His commands (John 14:21). The evidence that a believer loved the appearing of Jesus is that they lived a life of faithful service to Him, as did the Apostle Paul (v. 7). Like the Apostle Paul, they will receive the crown of righteousness. This is to "obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus **with** eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

## APPLICATION

You have the same opportunity as the \_\_\_\_\_ to receive the crown of righteousness from Jesus for a life of faithful service.

The basis of your judgment will not be the \_\_\_\_\_ life, but your unique life circumstances in which you received justification salvation. Neither will the basis of your judgment be \_\_\_\_\_.

We will be judged according to \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives revealed in the Bible.

It is neither arrogant nor \_\_\_\_\_ to reach a positive evaluation of your service for Christ. It reflects genuine \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus and genuine faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ He has made to His servants (ex. Matt. 24:45 - 25:30).

### GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- Signups for VBS are online at [www.gccramona.com](http://www.gccramona.com).
- Women's Ministry / VOM Event: "Hearts of Fire", Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p-9:40p.
- Family Movie Night Fundraiser for Chris & Sarah Villanueva's adoption hosted by Bobby & Jaymee Lang. Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM. 2337 Vermont Street. Please RSVP by texting Sarah @ (619) 602-8283.
- VOM Needs for July: Pack of 11" or longer Zip Ties / Lip balm, ChapStick.