

disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV)

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. Revelation 22:12 (ESV)

...and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Conclusion

1. **To finish well, I must pass the baton of leadership to the next generation.**
2. **To finish well, I must live my life—and if necessary my death—as a sacrifice to Jesus.**
3. **To finish well, I must have the right view of my death knowing it is the better end, not the bitter end.**
4. **To finish well, I must not be surprised when the Christian life is a hard, agonizing, and difficult struggle. I must expect it.**
5. **To finish well, I must remember the hard work of following Jesus is a good and noble work.**
6. **To finish well, I must stay on the course Jesus has given me to run,. I must not weigh myself down with unnecessary things or get off the course with sinful things.**
7. **To finish well, I must keep the faith, not drift away from the faith.**
8. **To finish well, I must fix my eyes on the rewards Jesus wants to give me.**

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. Paul talked about the Christian life being an agonizing struggle. What makes the Christian life hard? When you became a Christian, did you expect the Christian life would be so hard? What makes it a good and noble struggle?
3. Paul thought of his Christian life as a race. In the race of life, what slows us down so we don't accomplish all the good things God planned for us to accomplish? What gets us completely off track when it comes to God doing his good work through our life? (See Hebrews 12:1-2) How does this change the way we think about spending our time and money?
4. What did you learn about eternal rewards that you didn't know? Name two different types of eternal rewards Jesus longs to give us. How does that motivate you to live with greater passion for Jesus and reach more people with Jesus?



2 Timothy 4:7-8 – Finishing Well – Part 2

June 13, 2021

Review from 2 Timothy 4:6

1. **Finishing well means passing the baton to the next generation.**
2. **Finishing well means living life as a sacrifice to Jesus.**
3. **Finishing well means having the right view of death.**

4. **Finishing well means I must realize the Christian life is a spiritual struggle.**

I have fought the good fight... 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

Agonizomai — Agony. It is an excessive amount of energy and effort expended in a contest.

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

Toil — To work oneself to the point of utter exhaustion. To work oneself to the bone.

5. **Finishing well means remembering the struggle of the Christian life is a good and noble battle.**

I have fought the good fight... 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:8 (ESV)

6. **Finishing well means staying on the course.**

I have finished the race. 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...
Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)

A. Unnecessary weight will slow us down as we run for Jesus.

B. Sin will take us off course as we run for Jesus.

7. Finishing well means keeping the faith.

I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "
Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you... By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
1 Timothy 6:20 + 2 Timothy 1:14 (ESV)

8. Finishing well means fixing my eyes on my heavenly reward.

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. Luke 6:22–23 (ESV)

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"
1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV)

Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth." Psalm 58:11 (ESV)

He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:26 (ESV)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18 (ESV)

Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown...

Stephanos — Crown of honor. Not *diadem*, which is a king's crown.

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 1 Corinthians 9:25 (ESV)

...of righteousness — The crown of honor we will receive is righteousness.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

There will be additional rewards for believers based on how they lived.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

Paulos — It is better translated as worthless or valueless instead of evil.

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 1 Corinthians 3:12–13 (ESV)

The reward given to us on this day will be an increased capacity to serve Jesus in eternity.

...which the Lord, the righteous judge...

...will award me on that day..

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will