

A Father's Farewell

2nd Timothy

Finishing Well

Key idea:

Christians are motivated to finish well, even if it requires suffering, by remembering the eternal reward Christ will give to them when He returns.

Key text:

2 Timothy 4:6–8

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷ 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.

Key points:

1. Paul told Timothy that he was about to be put to death for his faithfulness to Christ and His Gospel.
2. Paul was able to say that he had finished well, having competed in the good contest, finished the race, and kept the faith.
3. Paul knew that Christ would reward Him at His return, along with every believer who loved Jesus and His kingdom more than this passing age.
4. Reminding myself of the eternal reward that awaits when Christ returns motivates me to live faithfully now.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How does Paul's knowledge of his impending death relate to his final charge to Timothy given in 2 Timothy 4:1-5?
3. Why does Paul shift from his impending death to reflecting on his past life and ministry?

4. When Paul declares that he had successfully finished the race and kept the faith, is this boasting? Why or why not?
5. Why does Paul list so many aspects of Timothy's ministry - preaching the Word, correcting, rebuking, and exhorting/encouraging? Are all of these really necessary?
6. How does Paul's reflection on his successful completion of the race help Timothy? What does Paul expect it to accomplish in his task of strengthening Timothy for his life and ministry?
7. When I look back at my life thus far, how would I characterize it? Where have I served God well and faithfully? Where have I fallen short? Where should I make changes for the remainder of my race?
8. How does looking forward to the return of Christ motivate me for my life and ministry now? In what ways is biblical eschatology (the study of the last things) helpful for my daily life?
9. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

Preview of Next Week: 2 Timothy 4:9-22