

Finish the Race

2 Tim. 4:6-8

Introduction:

- A. Last words have the potential to be very powerful.
- B. Outside of Jesus, perhaps no last words are more powerful than those penned by the apostle Paul (2 Tim. 4:6-8).
- C. If we want to be like Paul and finish the race knowing a crown of righteousness awaits us, we must do what Paul did.

Be a Living Sacrifice (v. 6)

- A. Paul compared his life to a drink offering. The drink offering was poured out before the altar prior to the offering of various sacrifices (Exo. 29:40; Lev. 23:13; Num. 28:7).
- B. After obeying the Gospel, Paul sacrificed his life for the service of the Lord (Acts 9:20-22; Phil. 1:21-24; Rom. 14:7-8).
- C. Nothing in life matters more than living one's life for the Lord (Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 16:26).

Be Disciplined and Don't Give Up (v. 7)

- A. Paul could have chosen to throw in the towel and give up. He suffered so much for the sake of serving the Lord (2 Cor. 11:21-28).
- B. Paul was disciplined and lived his life for the Lord and His service (1 Pet. 5:8; Acts 20:24).
- C. Many people go through life and give up following after the Lord (Jn. 6:60-66; 2 Tim. 4:10). Don't be one of these people.

Be Confident in the Promises of God (v. 8)

- A. Paul was certain of his victory (1 Jn. 5:13). He did not say, "Henceforth I hope there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." Paul said, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."
- B. Because Paul lived his life as a living sacrifice and didn't give up, he was confident in the promises of God (Jn. 14:1-3, Tit. 1:2; Heb. 10:23).

Conclusion:

- A. We do not know when our race will end, but we must live everyday ready to cross the finish line.
- B. My challenge for you this morning is to finish the race. But understand this, you cannot finish the race until you begin the race. Why not start that race this morning?