



LEAVING A GODLY LEGACY AND WHAT WILL BE SAID ABOUT YOU

FINISHING WELL – 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

In this the final chapter of Paul's last words he _____ Timothy to "*make full proof of thy ministry.*" Now, today's text reveals that his commands are over as he finishes with _____ comments and issues most important to him. Although his young protégé would not have the same ministry as the apostle, it will still be very valuable to the cause of Christ. This is crucial to us because every believer's _____ is important to God no matter how big or small. We have all been given gifts from God to use to the fullest; we have all been afforded once in a lifetime opportunities _____ to us and our special fields of influence. We must make the most of it and be able to rest in the fact that we will one day *finish well.*

1. The present – 2 Timothy 4:6

- Being ready for our time of departure – Ro. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:1-9; Phil. 2:17

2. The past – 2 Timothy 4:7

- Three key elements *why* Paul was ready for his time of departure:

1) Fought a good _____ – Jude 3; 1 Ti. 1:18-19

Are you in the _____ fight?

Do you know what the _____ fight is all about?

Can you fight proficiently? (offensively and defensively)?

2) Finished his course

What course are you on?

What map are you following?

Where will your choices ultimately take you?

3) Kept the faith – Ro. 10:17; Heb. 11:1, 6

Will you _____ to keep the faith?

What choices are you making to insure keeping the faith?

Is failure an option for you?

3. The future – 2 Timothy 4:8

- A _____ awaits

A reward from the righteous judge – the Lord Jesus Christ

Rewards will be given *that day* at the judgment seat of Christ – Ro. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10

This particular reward will be given to all believers that *love his appearing*

- Rewards come in the form of _____:

- 1) A crown of righteousness – 2 Ti. 4:8; Phil. 1 :23-24
- 2) A crown of life – James 1:12; Rev. 2:10; Ro. 6:6-11
- 3) A crown of incorruption (aka an incorruptible crown) – 1 Cor. 9:17-27
- 4) A crown of rejoicing – Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19; Pr. 11:30; Lk. 15:7
- 5) A crown of glory – 1 Peter 5:4; 4:11-16; Pr. 4:7-9

Note: Our crowns will be cast back at the feet of the Lord Jesus – Rev. 4:10

- Leaving a godly legacy

What will be said about you? Eph. 1:1

Are you far sighted - longing for Christ's return?

Are you preparing to finish well?

A relevant story concerning *that day*, the Judgment Seat of Christ:

Mr. Smith had three sons who worked with him in his business. His oldest son Paul was a diligent worker who was never late for work and often stayed late if needed. He did whatever he was asked to do and was willing to do some of those dirty jobs everyone else avoided. He often ate lunch with his dad and asked many questions in order to understand the business better. These frequent lunches helped Paul understand the business and his father.

Mr. Smith's second son was Samson. Samson worked hard and was fairly dependable but had many interests outside of work. Samson's mind was frequently on these other interests and because of them he was often unwilling to give extra time to the job. He got along fine with his dad, and his work was usually good.

Achan was the third son and was more of a "free spirit" (though some might say "undisciplined"). Achan's definition of being on time to work was arriving 5 minutes after starting time. His work was generally acceptable, but he made many mistakes largely because his mind was elsewhere and also because he really didn't believe the procedures and policies of the business. The policies and procedures he did believe were pretty silly to him, and so he did not take them seriously. Although Achan was not on the "same page" with his father, he had no significant conflicts with him.

Mr. Smith loved his three sons dearly. Each was precious to him, and he loved them equally. But when Mr. Smith got ready to retire, which son did he put in charge of his business, along with the significant pay increase and some nice "perks"? To answer that question one does not need a Ph.D. in human behavior or a master's degree in business administration. Achan was a reluctant worker, and Samson had divided loyalties. Paul knew his father and his father's business and had been faithful and diligent. Is there any doubt that the position and the perks go to Paul?

Our Heavenly Father loves his children dearly and equally, and the Bible is quite clear that he is not a respecter of persons (Eph. 6:9). But when it comes to rewarding his children, he will deal with each of them fairly. Those who know Him well and who have obediently and faithfully carried on his business in this world will be rewarded in a greater way than other children who have been careless, self-focused, and unfaithful. Some children will receive great rewards while others will experience the loss of those rewards that the Father wished to give. It has nothing to do with his children being good or nice people. The receiving of rewards or the losing of rewards will take place at the judgment seat of Christ when the Son of God will evaluate the service of those who have been born into the family of God through his blood.

Author unknown – some liberty has been taken to amend the text by PT