

Being a Minister for Christ

Lesson 9

2 Timothy 4:6-8

May 23, 2021

Finish Strong With No Regrets

Introduction

Stephen Covey's famous book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" listed seven habits that would make for effective people, hence the title. The 2nd habit he named was "begin with the end in mind." In other words, for any project you want to start, you must begin by first having the end result in mind.

However, this concept is not new. The Apostle Paul lived with this mindset. He constantly had the end goal in mind of coming before Jesus face-to-face and having no regrets for how he spent his life building the church.

We have the benefit of not only reading about Paul in his mindset at earlier stages of his ministry but in our passage today, we see him at the end of his life. He looked back at this point and believed that he had run the race set before him. He had kept the faith and not given up. Despite all that he endured, Paul never stopped striving to be on mission for Jesus every day of his life.

Do you live with the same end in mind as Paul? Live every day with the crown of glory in mind when we faithfully serve Jesus and proclaim Him to the world.

Memory verse: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."—2 Timothy 4:7

Pray and read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Like what is Paul being poured out? (2 Timothy 4:6)
2. How close is his departure? (2 Timothy 4:6)
3. Fill in this verse: "I have _____ the good fight, I have _____ the race, I have _____ the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)
4. What is in store for Paul? (2 Timothy 4:8)
5. Who will reward Paul with it? Who else will receive that reward? (2 Timothy 4:8)

What does the passage mean?

1. Paul said in verse 6 that he was being poured out like a drink offering. It means that he gave everything of himself to share the gospel with others. In what other ways did he do that? (Philippians 3:12-16; Colossians 1:28-29; 2 Timothy 2:15)

2. In verse 7, Paul used two analogies to portray his point: he worked hard for the Lord until the end. He also used these analogies elsewhere to describe his present work (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Seeing these two passages put together, what is Paul communicating about what it means to serve the Lord? (2 Timothy 4:7)

3. Paul knew that the end of his life was near, and he firmly believed that he had done everything he could to spread the good news about Jesus. Where did Paul draw the strength to do it? (1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 3:7, 16; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:17)

4. What will the end of a Christian's life look like if they followed Jesus faithfully like Paul? How did this give Paul hope at the end of his life? (Matthew 25:23; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 21:1-5)

3. Have you relied on God's Spirit to give you the strength to live for Jesus, or have you relied on your power? Take a moment to write a prayer below asking the Lord to teach you to rely on His strength and not trust in yours.