

FINISHING WELL



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Key verses: 2 Timothy 4:6-22

Introduction

What are we doing here today?

1. Consider our Scripture in 2 Timothy 4
2. Talk about a few paradigms
3. Apply the reality of this word in our lives
4. Connect with Jesus Christ
5. Have a new understanding of our walk with him

Consider our Scripture

2 Timothy 4:6-22 - New International Version

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now 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.

Paradigms

Paradigm What is the picture we see in our minds. Strong, Powerful, Conqueror, Overcomer.

My Dilemma, when I was asked to bring this word is that I was in a turmoil of circumstances. When I received the message from Grant to preach on this topic I was going through a terrible testing time. My first response was why now? Why me? What will I have to say?

1. Emotionally I was challenged as my mother was very ill and passed away on the 15th of July 2024 while I was preparing this message. Memorial was held on the 28th of July 2024.
2. On the 5th of August we became Grandparents with the arrival of Noah our first grand child.
3. Psychologically I was challenged because I resigned from a full-time job and pursued an unfamiliar avenue with a new rhythm that I still had to learn.
4. On the ministry front I was challenged with navigating a congregation through a time of restoration who is broken, hurt and damaged
5. Physically I was challenged because I went through three sets of illnesses over the last few months.
6. On the closer family front we were navigating through issues in our marriage and relationships with our children.

7. On the extended family front we were navigating through relational challenges.

I was in this whirlpool of thoughts, feelings, uncertainties, grief, joy....

So -- What happens when life happens??

I was contemplating all these things (LIFE) when I continued reading the suggested scripture some days later. That is when I realized that God is speaking and working with us and through us through our humanity. Just being normal people.

Scripture

⁹Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

Don't look at me But the LORD...

¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹Greet Priscilla^[a] and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. ²¹Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.^[b]

²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

Here is this man Paul who, as he has explained in chapter 1 vs 1 is

1. Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,
2. *¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. **Paradigm***
3. **When Life happens**
4. *¹⁶But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

Dilemma - Gavin Cox explained the 2 chairs – Deon illustrated

4 Truths to consider:

1. We are no good on our own.
2. We need Christ and the Holy spirit to transform us into new creation. Old man to new creation.
3. We have been united with Christ. Born again in the Spirit. God lives in you and nothing is impossible.
4. We live in an earthly tent with real challenges, habits and sinful nature but live and respond to life from the Authority given to us from our heavenly position.

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

"In the body" ----- "In Christ"

How am I defined?

I will not be defined by my weakness.

I will not be defined by what I do not have.

I will not be defined by my circumstances.

I will not be defined by disappointments.

I will not get stuck here while I am on a journey.

How do I view my walk with Christ?

- The problem we have is that we relate our walk with Christ as a 100m sprint. Story (under 19 boys)
- Faster, faster, faster.
- The fittest, strongest.
- Most toned.

It is actually a **long-distance run** (comrades).

- Slow start
- Endurance
- Support from others
- Fall and get back up
- Pace yourself as the territory requires.
- Get enough substance and water
- Treat the blister and cramp
- I sometimes run alone and sometimes in a group
- I make sure that I have support

Conclusion

Consideration 1 - If you're falling off a cliff, strong faith in a weak branch is fatally inferior to weak faith in a strong branch. Salvation is not finally based on the strength of your faith, but on the object of your faith. Tim Keller

Consideration 2 - The source of thanksgiving and gratitude is our pain and suffering. It can be compared to the pressure process that produces precious ointment. It is deeper than what mere blessings can produce. When we keep offence or stay being victims, we block the beautiful and costly worship of our hearts overflowing with deep gratitude and thanksgiving. Marius Gradwell

Consideration 3 - WE cannot run this race on our own strength

John 1:12 *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*

Colossians 1:27. *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

How am I defined? Christ in me the hope of glory

I will not be defined by my weakness.

I will not be defined by what I do not have.

I will not be defined by my circumstances.

I will not be defined by disappointments.

I will not get stuck right here while I am on a journey.