

Finish Well: A Study of 2 Timothy

May 13, 2018 | 2 Timothy 2

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son... 2 Timothy 1:1-2a

Persistence | 2 Timothy 2

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Vs. 1-2

- The responsibility to pass on what has been entrusted to you
- “It is not only a privilege to receive the Christian faith; it is a duty to transmit it. Every Christian must look on himself as a link between two generations.” William Barclay

Paul explains to Timothy “How” – How do you “Finish Well?”

The importance of dedication

Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Vs. 3-6

In any area, dedication pays off. It is the dedicated that see the results...

Paul uses three examples:

- A soldier
- An athlete
- A farmer

Paul says there are a lot of things to be dedicated to – to your country, to a competitive game or even to your own job and livelihood, but remember what really matters - be dedicated to God!

- *Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. Vs. 8*

The importance of hard-work

Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman... Vs. 14-15

- Paul challenges Timothy to not just talk, but to be a workman.

The importance of focus

Flee the evil desires of youth... Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Vs. 22-24

- Paul says, focus on what is really important.
 - Don’t waste time on trivial matters.

- But, instead focus on what will last for eternity.

And, the result of a life that “Finishes Well” is legacy

“Beginning well is a momentary thing; finishing well is a lifelong thing.” - Ravi Zacharias

Are you preparing to finish well?

Taking It Home

This is the apostle Paul’s last letter. Paul is in prison in Rome for being a Christ-follower, and he knows he is about to die for the Gospel. Therefore, Paul writes this letter to Timothy, his spiritual son in the faith, and he tells him how to finish his life well. Paul points Timothy to the importance of dedication, hard-work and focus in his Christian faith. Paul wants Timothy to leave a legacy for Christ that will impact future generations. Today, God is speaking to us through this amazing letter. What legacy will you leave? How are you planning to finish well?