

# Finishing Well

*One Life*

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**Bible Text:** 2 Timothy 4:6-8

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## **Capital Baptist Church**

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Welcome to Capital Baptist Church and welcome to our current teaching series entitled “One Life.” Please take your Bible and turn to 2 Timothy chapter four and today we are going to be talking about finishing well. We are going to be looking here at 2 Timothy chapter four verses six through eight. I want to welcome you to this message today. If you are here in the auditorium I want to encourage you to take out your study guide which is in your program. So if you look inside of your program you will find a study guide of our message for today. And if you are listening online today, I want to welcome you. I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to listen to a message. I want you to know that you can download the study guide and have it available to you.

Well, today we are going to be continuing and completing a series entitled, “One Life.” And today we are going to be talking about this very important topic of finishing well. And we are going to talk about how that finishing well is not going to happen by accident. There are certain things that you must do in you life in order to finish well. And Paul is going to tell us about the end of his life. He is going to tell us about what it took for him to finish well. And we are going to learn today about how that we can do the same thing.

You see, the fact is there is a time to be born and there is a time to die. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 tells us that. There is a time to be born and there is a time to die. You know, the fact is: We will be born and we will die, but the thing that makes the difference is what we do with our life. And I like to look at it like what we do with our dash. I think about a tombstone and how you got the dash in the middle and that is your life. And what you do with your dash matters. What you do with your life is very, very important. One day you are going to come to the end of your life and you want to finish well. You want to finish your one life well. And Paul today is going to help us to show us how to make that happen.

2 Timothy chapter four. Here is Paul at the end of his life. This is the last book he is going to write. This is the last chapter of the last book he is going to write. In 2 Timothy chapter four he says this.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.<sup>1</sup>

Now significant to note, important to note that Paul is at the end of his life. These are his final words. This is the last chapter he is going to write. He is probably going to be beheaded as a martyr for Jesus very, very soon. And what he is talking about here is where he is at. You know, what is he experiencing? What is he feeling? What is he thinking about?

Now it is important as you look at this to realize that Paul didn't end his life isolated. It is important to note that throughout this chapter there are many different names of people that Paul is thinking about. At the top of that list is the one who he is writing to and the one he is writing to is a young preacher named Timothy. Let's go back to chapter one of this book, 2 Timothy chapter one, and let's understand the relationship that Paul had with Timothy. Paul had a long and important relationship with Timothy. It was not only a relationship with him, but also with his family. In 2 Timothy chapter one and verse five Paul says this:

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”<sup>2</sup>

See, Paul here is talking about Timothy. This young man was so special to him and him at the not only had a relationship with Paul, but Timothy's grandmother had a relationship with Paul. Timothy's mother had a relationship with Paul. Paul says, “Timothy, when I think about you, I think about your grandmother. I think about Lois. Timothy, when I think about you, I think about your mother Eunice.” It is important for us to realize that although Paul was an unmarried man, he did not live an isolated life. He lived an invested life. When you come to the end of your life, you don't want to be isolated. You want to be able to look and you want to be able to consider all the investments that you have made in other people.

In 2 Timothy chapter two verse two Paul told Timothy this. In 2 Timothy 2:2 it says:

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”<sup>3</sup>

I mean, the Christian life is to be a life of investment. And here Paul tells Timothy, “Timothy, listen. I have invested in you. And, Timothy, what I want you to do is I want you to go and I want you to tell those that you have invested in to, listen, to find others and invest in their lives.”

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Timothy 1:5.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Timothy 2:2.

You know, I pass and I have time to consider my death certainly I will be thinking about my wife. Certainly I will be thinking about my children. But listen. Paul didn't have a wife to think about. He didn't have children to think about. He was unmarried. But, again, he didn't live an isolated life. He invested himself. Who are you investing in? What is going to go through your mind at the end of your life? Who did you make an investment into? Listen? Who did you influence?

And now Paul comes to chapter number four and this is it. He just starts sounding off all kinds of different names. I don't know how many names are here in chapter four. I meant to count them and I didn't, but there are many names here. He is thinking about all kinds of people that he is invested in. Who are you invested in? Are you living an isolated life? You are wasting your life. Don't waste your life. You have got one life. Invest it in people.

And in 2 Timothy chapter four verses seven through eight Paul talks about finishing well. Now when it comes to finishing well, there are three questions you need to consider. Question number one. What kind of departure will you have? You need to think about that. Number two, what kind of legacy will you leave? Number three, what reward will you receive? Finishing well is dealing with these very, very important questions. What is my departure going to be like? Number two, you know, as I look at my life, what kind of legacy am I going to leave? What kind of reward are you going to receive? These are the things, the very important things that are in Paul's mind as he is here finishing well.

Let me read it again, 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.<sup>4</sup>

Wow. Here is a man that is going to be dead in a short amount of time. This is how he is going out. He is finishing well.

Let's go to page two of our notes. Let's talk about how to finish well. I love it. Paul says, "I am ready to be offered." Isn't that a powerful statement? I am ready to die. I am ready to go. He says, "I know it won't be long, but the time of my departure is at hand."

Nero has given an order that Paul is to be executed. He is to be killed. Not because he is Paul, but because he is a follower of Jesus, a man who has made a big difference with his life and Nero is trying to put an end to the influence that Paul is having at that time and he is going to have them kill. He dies as a martyr for Jesus Christ. It says, "I am ready. I know it is not going to be long and I am ready."

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<sup>4</sup> 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Now as he thinks about this, the thing I want to focus on is the word time. When it comes to finishing well, I believe this. You need to seek a long life. Now Paul's life was shortened because he was executed. He died as a martyr. Now I don't know what our future holds, but if things continue as they are today, probably none of us will die as a martyr. Things could change. Things could be different. We don't know what our future holds. We don't know where things are going to go, but as of today, if things continue like they are today, it is very unlikely that any of us are actually going to be executed because of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Most of us are going to die of what you might call natural causes. Our bodies are going to die. Our bodies are going to end.

Here is my way of looking at this. When it comes to a life and when it comes to finishing well, I believe that duration matters. Can you make a big impact in a short amount of time? Sure, you can. History tells us of people that weren't on this earthy very long that made a big difference. But in my way of thinking the longer I can be here, the more of a difference I can make with my life, the more people I can invest in.

So here is the deal. I am seeking a long life. I believe that finishing well is seeking a long life. Now I have a prayer and I have a plan for this goal. My prayer is this. I pray that I can live to be at least 100. I actually pray that God will allow me to live to be at least 100 years old. Now the good news is the trend is on my side. The last census shows us some of this stuff. Do you know that in 1950 in America there were only 2300 people at least 100 years old? Only 2300. By 2010, the last census showed there were 79,000 people alive in America who were over 100 years old. Now listen. By 2050 and I am only going to be 93, so I won't be in this crowd, ok? But I am going to be trying to be part of that crowd, by 2050 there is going to be 601,000 people at least 100 years old.

You know what I want to live to be 100. I want the duration of my life to be as long as possible.

You say, "Well, you shouldn't pray about those things."

Well, there is a biblical example of somebody that prayed their life could be extended and God answered that prayer. His name was Hezekiah and in 2 Kings chapter 20 the Bible says:

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell

Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears.<sup>5</sup>

Isn't that powerful? God hears your prayers. God sees your tears. And God chose to answer this prayer and he actually tells him:

"I will add unto thy days fifteen years."<sup>6</sup>

Does God always heal? Of course he doesn't always heal. But we should always pray for healing. You know, I always pray. I have been there at the last moment of people's lives and I have prayed even in that moment for healing. God can heal. God is a God of healing. He is a healer. And it was God's will at this appointed time to answer this prayer, to heal Hezekiah. And God extended his life for 15 more years. God listens to these kinds of prayers. So why go for 15? That's what I say. Let's go for 100, amen? Let's do it.

Now with prayer I have a plan. I have a plan I believe how long I live has a lot to do with my lifestyle. In fact, about three years ago I actually read a book called *The 100 Year Lifestyle*. This doctor studied people that lived to be 100 and identified what were the common denominators of these people. They had a specific lifestyle.

You say, "Well, God is in charge of when you die."

I don't disagree with that, but it just so happens it looks like the way you live has a little bit to do with what God decides, amen? So here I was, you know, siding, you know what? I want to live. But my problem was my lifestyle was getting over to death. I mean, there I was. I weighed 340 pounds. I had disease all in my body. I had high blood pressure, the silent killer. I had high cholesterol clogging up my arteries. I had diabetes. I was going to die. I didn't want to die. See, my problem was I had a bod for Steve, ok, is what I had. So I decided to look in the Bible and guess what I discovered about the Bible? Proverbs chapter four verses 20 through 22.

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.<sup>7</sup>

Do you know what I found out? The Bible says you obey the Word, God is going to help you with your health. God says, "You obey the Word of God." That shouldn't surprise us. God made us. Do you think he would leave us without directions? I discovered the Bible is the greatest health book in all the world and I study what the word body says in the Bible about taking care of you body. I moved from having a plan which was a bod for Steve plan full of disease and death to a bod for God plan where because I

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<sup>5</sup> 2 Kings 20:1-5.

<sup>6</sup> 2 Kings 20:6.

<sup>7</sup> Proverbs 4:20-22.

surrendered my fork to God, I don't have high blood pressure anymore. I don't have high cholesterol anymore. I don't have diabetes anymore.

Do you know what? I want to live. I believe because of my lifestyle, honestly, I would have a hard time praying that prayer without a plan to back it up. I think God would just chuckle, don't you? Really. You have got to be kidding me. You are asking me for this life? What a joke. God bless our food. What kind of food are we asking him to bless? You know, think about it. I believe the duration of my life is part of finishing well. I probably won't be executed. I may, but I probably won't.

Nero is probably not going to take me out. Steve can take me out.

I had an interesting thing happen. It was a day I will never forget as long as I live. Last Thanksgiving weekend on the Friday after Thanksgiving we decided that we were going to go out to the country and we were going to take my mom and dad and we were going to take a video camera. We were going to go to some special places which included grave sites. We were going to record my mom and dad telling us about stuff, because it was stuff that we don't know about or we would easily forget. And we wanted as part of our history to know some of this stuff. So we went around and my dad just would tell us about being here. This is so and so. My mother would do the same thing. And we were able in that one day... I believe we went back for four generations to my great, great grandfather's graveside. I am fortunate enough to have all that family history within like five, six, seven miles of each other.

I will never forget going to my grandfather's graveside. I had been there before, but this was a different occasion. And I remember standing there and I had a little talk with him. And here is how the talk went.

I said, "Grand daddy..." His name was Homer. I said, "I just need to tell you something. I just want to talk to you a little bit. Do you know what? I sure wish I knew you. I guess you knew me. I was like three years old when you died. So at least you go to see me. At least you know you had a grandson named Steve, but I have no memory of you. I don't remember you at all, except in pictures. Grand daddy, I wish I had a memory of you. Grand daddy, I have a lot of memories of your wife Emma, my grandmother. Grand daddy, I have so many memories of being with her and, grand daddy, I would actually come to your house for two, three, four weeks every summer and spend that time in your house where you lived, grand daddy. I had so many memories of being with grandma and what a great time we had. Grand daddy, I remember going down to this pond in the back there and we would take the old bamboo fishing pole and we would throw it in the water and there were these little perch in the water and we would pull them out and we would walk back up that hill and grandma would fix some eggs and fix some of that fish. Mmm, mmm, good, grand daddy. Grand daddy, I remember grandma. I saw her more than one time go out to the back and pick up a chicken and just strangle that thing. Grand daddy, you are talking about fresh chicken. That was the freshest chicken in the world. And, grand daddy, I was scared to death of grandma because I thought she might strangle me. So whenever she said I would do it. I was scared of her. Grand daddy, I had such a great

time. in fact, my cousin Dillard and I we didn't want grandma to be alone and we would spend a lot of time with her. Dillard was there even more than I was, grand daddy, really took great care of grandma. I was there a lot myself. Grand daddy, I can remember at night time I could see grandma and she would say, 'Ok, time to go to bed.' And she would say, 'Ok, we are going to read the Bible.' And I can remember her there and she would have this old like wool robe on or whatever and all this cream stuff all over her face and, grand daddy, she stunk to high heaven. And, grand daddy, she would take that old back King James Version Bible, grand daddy and remember she would have a little candle there. She would read her Bible. I got hundreds of memories. Grand daddy, I don't have any memories of you, not a single memory. Grand daddy, I understood you were quite a smoker. Grand daddy, I understand that was part of the culture. I know southern Virginia. I know tobacco farming is a big part of making a living and I understand the world you grew up in is a lot different than maybe the world today. I understand you had to make a living at it. Grand daddy, I wish you wouldn't have smoked those cigarettes. Grand daddy, I don't know if it is true or not. I heard some time ago that every time a person smokes a cigarette they lose three minutes off their life. I don't know if that is true or not, grand daddy, but I know it is not good for you. And, grand daddy, maybe if you wouldn't have smoked those cigarettes, just maybe I would have a memory. You are dead. I don't even..."

You see, I want to live. I might die soon, maybe this week. I don't know. You know? I don't know if I will ever know my grandchildren. I hope I do. I hope I get to impact their life. I hope I get to influence their life. I want to make a difference in them. I want to invest in them. I want to live. And part of finishing well for me is seeking a long life. I hope the time of my departure is not at hand. I hope I can live a long life. And I have got a prayer and a plan and, yes, we will see what God decides to do.

Number two, when it comes to a life that is a life of finishing well, Paul says there is a second thing and that is you have got to make a significant impact. He says in verse seven:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."<sup>8</sup>

He is talking about significance here. He is talking about significant impact of his life. And he says three things about it. Number one, I have fought a good fight. I have fought a good fight. If you are going to have a significant life, you must fight a good fight. And significance requires discipline.

What do you mean by a fight, Paul?

Well, he is talking about life. Life is a fight, meaning it is hard. It is difficult. It is not easy. It is tough. There is suffering. There is hardship. There is pain. There his betrayal. There is brokenness. There is anguish. There are tears. That is life. Life is not fair. It is not fair. And it is a fight all the way.

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<sup>8</sup> 2 Timothy 4:7.

Paul said in Acts chapter 14, listen to what he said as Luke records it here in Acts. He says:

“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.”<sup>9</sup>

Here is what’s Paul doing, investing, investing, investing. Isn’t this good? He is going from one place to another. He is investing over there in Lystra. He is investing over in Iconium. He is investing over in Antioch. He is going from place to place. He is not living some isolated life. He is giving himself to people everywhere. And here is what he is doing. Confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them. Here it is, to continue in the faith. And he tells them this.

“...that through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom of God.”<sup>10</sup>

Do you know what Paul tells them? He says, “Let me tell you something. Life is a fight.” He tells those Christians. He says, “Listen. You go into heaven, great. On the way there is going to be much tribulation. On the way it is going to be a rough road and you have got to fight, fight, fight. You have to fight the good fight. 1 Corinthians 15. You remember this? Easter Sunday, remember that? First message, 1 Corinthians 15:58. Do you remember this passage? Remember I said 1 Corinthians 15 is the resurrection chapter of the Bible? Remember that? And how does the resurrection chapter of the Bible end? What is the last thing said? Verse 58.

Therefore what? Jesus is alive. And because Jesus is alive:

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”<sup>11</sup>

It takes discipline. When you come to the end of your life, don’t be known as a quitter. Don’t be known as somebody that threw in the towel. Don’t be known as somebody that gave up. Be known as a fighter. Be known as one that had discipline. Discipline to me is saying, “Know your emotions.” And when every emotion in you says, “Give it up, quit, stop,” you fight on because your discipline in your life. You will never be sorry you stayed in the fight and forever you will be sorry you quit. Don’t be a quitter.

Secondly, a significant impact means this. Finish the race. Finish the course. Paul says, “I have finished the course.” What this means is that significance requires direction. You have got to live your life with the direction God has given for you to live, whatever that might be. And he didn’t live his life like Frank Sinatra, I had it my way. No, he lived his life I had it Jesus’ way. The direction I had in my life was not me. It was him.

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<sup>9</sup> Acts 14:21.

<sup>10</sup> Acts 14:22.

<sup>11</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:58.



In fact, in Acts chapter 20 he says:

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy.”<sup>12</sup>

I want to finish with joy. I want to finish the ministry which I have received from who? From the Lord Jesus who testified the gospel of the grace of God. Finish what God has given for you to do. Go to your grave knowing that you accomplished what he had for you, whatever that might have been in your life. You might not accomplish everything you wanted to do, but make sure you accomplished everything he wanted you to do. Right?

I love what Colossians 4:17 says.

“And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.”<sup>13</sup>

Fulfill what God has given for you to do. That is part of finishing well. You must finish the race. And then also you must keep the faith. Paul said so clearly:

“I have kept the faith.”<sup>14</sup>

Now the faith is an important phrase in the Bible. And the faith is basically a total composite of our belief system meaning, listen, a significant life has everything to do with doctrine. Paul says, so clearly here, I have kept the faith. In other words, he did not come compromise the faith. He did not give in to the world when it came to the faith. He kept the faith. He kept the faith.

1 Timothy 4:6 says:

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”<sup>15</sup>

Now let's stop to look at this verse for a second. And notice it is written to Timothy, ok? Paul wrote two letters to this guy named Timothy. This one is 1 Timothy. Now what did I tell you Timothy did? Timothy was a preacher. Right? And he is getting ready to tell Timothy what a good preacher is like.

Have you ever wondered what a good preacher is like? How do you know if somebody is a good preacher? Are they funny? Do they make you...? Ok? Are they tall? Are they short? Are they young? Are they old? What is a good preacher like?

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<sup>12</sup> Acts 20:24.

<sup>13</sup> Colossians 4:17.

<sup>14</sup> 2 Timothy 4:7.

<sup>15</sup> 1 Timothy 4:6.

When you say, “Man, they are a good preacher,” what do you base that on? How do you know somebody is a good preacher? How do you know? Does he have charisma? He may not have charisma. What are they like? Good people skills, bad people skills. What are they like?

Well, Paul tells Timothy what is a good preacher. He says, “You want to be a good ministry of Jesus? Here is the deal, Timothy. A good minister of Jesus nourished up in the words of what? Faith.” They give you the words of faith. You measure a sermons based on the words of faith. That is the best standard of a good minister. Are they giving you the Word of God? Are they giving you the Bible? And then a good doctrine, are they giving you good doctrine from the words of faith? Doctrine is our belief system. Doctrine matters.

We live in an age now deemphasizing doctrine. It is wrong. Doctrine matters. Our belief system matters. Significance requires doctrine.

Back page of our notes. Jude three actually says we are to contend for the faith. We are actually to stand up for the faith and that is what Paul did. He is getting ready to die for the faith, do you hear me? This guy is getting ready to probably be beheaded because of the faith. He is standing up for the faith. He is not compromising. He is not giving in. he is going to die for it.

Cut my head off if you want, buddy. Nero, come on. Do what you need to. Ok? I am not compromising because of you, ok?

Boy, I hope if I was ever at that point, if they just don't use snakes, I think I can make it, ok? But if they pull out snakes, honestly, I don't know what I am going to do, frankly. I will just use flat out honesty, ok? I am not afraid of sharp things. Cut me off. That is fine, ok?

Question number one, what is your departure? Question number two, what kind of legacy are you going to leave? Question number three, what kind of reward are you going to receive? Look at verse eight.

Henceforth. What in the world is that there for? It is saying because of my life, because of verse number seven, henceforth I have got a reward ahead of me. He says, “I got up there in heaven.”

“... there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”<sup>16</sup>

What do we see here? Number one, heaven immediately follows death for the believer. Paul says, “Boom, I am dead. Boom, I am in heaven.”

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<sup>16</sup> 2 Timothy 4:8.

I like to put it this way. He never lost a breath. He never died. He just moved his base of operation. Your loved ones that are in heaven are more alive today than ever before. They just changed their base of operation. They are not functioning here. They are functioning there. And Paul said we are confident of that in verses six through eight of 2 Corinthians chapter five.

And then every believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Paul understood this. The Bible says, “Why do we judge each other?” Isn’t that a great question? We are all going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. He is our judge, not you, not me.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.<sup>17</sup>

Can I tell you there is a common denominator in every one of these messages? The Judge is Christ. We only give him one of these messages where that hasn’t been included, because that is what it is all about. That message number two was big thinking. Remember that? And it was all about the judgment seat of Christ. Big thinking is realizing you one day are going to stand at the judgment seat of Christ and you better think about it every day. You better think about the fact that your life today is going to matter tomorrow and you are going to stand before Jesus Christ and you are going to give an account for your life. You had better be thinking about it.

Paul is thinking about it. Listen to what he says. He says, first of all, “I have a guaranteed reward.” He says here, listen to this. He says with confidence.

“...there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.”<sup>18</sup>

Now how can he say that? Because of henceforth. He knew he had put in the discipline. He knew that he had followed the direction. Listen. He knew that he had stood by the doctrine. And when he was going to die, he was guaranteed there was going to be something waiting for him. Do you know, because of the way you are living today, that you have got reward waiting for you?

Number two, it was a glorious reward. It was guaranteed, but it was glorious. It was called the crown of righteousness. Now the Bible mentions specific crowns in our message on big thinking I gave you a list of those. Frankly, I don’t understand all this stuff. Maybe you understand it. I don’t. There is a list of these crowns and there is some description of them, but for me it is just not super clear. But here is what is clear. There are multiple types of crowns that we could receive, the specific things we have done. And in this instance Paul is specifically talking about the crown of righteousness. It is a glorious crown. It is a personal reward. It is a guaranteed reward. He knows it is waiting.

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<sup>17</sup> Romans 14:11-12.

<sup>18</sup> 2 Timothy 4:8.

It is a glorious reward. It is a crown, a crown of righteousness. And the best part is it is personal. He says, "Jesus is going to give it to me. Jesus is going to give it to me."

{?} Here is your crown of righteousness.

Do you remember last week I actually got down on the floor? I told you. We are going to be there face to face with Jesus. And if we have been faithful he is going to hand us those crowns. And I told you. You are not going to jump up and say, "Whoopee, look what I got. I got five. You only got two. I didn't think you would get two. Good night. God must grade on the curve. You got two," or whatever. No. It is not going to be that way at all.

You are going to give them back to Jesus. You are going to land them at his feet. You are going to say, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain." You are going to think, "Jesus without you I could do nothing." One on one, Jesus. {?} Can you imagine showing up not getting any crowns, not having anything {?}.

The Bible says, "Don't lose your reward. Don't lose that opportunity."

What are you doing with your henceforth?

And then, lastly, shared reward. Paul says, "Listen. Not just me only, it is not just me only. All them that love his appearing will be."

Aren't you glad? Paul is not any more special than you? Do you understand that? Paul is not a bit more special than you. You, too, can receive this crown. But you have got to live a certain way.

Are you finishing well? Only one life, so soon it will pass.