



2 Timothy 4:1-22 “Finish Strong”

It's not how you start the race but how you finish it that matters most! 2Tim4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Why Finish Strong? vv1-5

- We will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. v1; Heb4:13
- You don't want to be led astray or lead others astray. vv2-5

Attractional churches are where the Gospel is either missing, peripheral, occasional or incidental. They have consumeristic values and pragmatic methodology and therefore win consumers and pragmatist. What you win them with is what you win them to. If they aren't won BY the glory of Christ, they aren't won TO the glory of Christ. -Jared Wilson (The Gospel Driven Church)

Healthy churches will be Gospel centered and help you to grow in your affection and esteem for Christ and His Word. This will produce in you an obvious humble confidence and an evident love for God and others. Services will be built around beholding who Christ is and what He has DONE (2Cor3:18) that will empower you to do what He has called you to DO.

What is Finishing Strong? vv6-8

- It is accepting all that God sends whether you understand it or not. v6; Pro3:5-6

"When I consider the Cross of Christ, how can anything that I do be called sacrifice?"—Amy Carmichael

- It is obeying all that God says whether I agree or not. v7; 1John5:2-3

- It is enjoying all that God is because the best is yet to come. v8; Rev21:4; 1Cor13:12

How to Finish Strong? vv9-22

- Stay in touch with your friends. vv9-13, 19-22; Gal6:2
- Don't let a root of bitterness grow in your heart. vv14-16; Heb12:15

"For a cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted."—Amy Carmichael
- Trust God to be with you and strengthen you to the end. vv17-18; Isa41:10

Growing Notes

- 1) It's not how you start the race but how you finish it that matters most! Explain. Have there been times in your life when you started something strong but finished poorly? Explain. How would you motivate someone to finish strong in their faith (2Tim 4:7)?
- 2) Read 2 Timothy 4:1-22. Who will Jesus Christ judge (v1)? What was Timothy to be prepared for (v2)? What will people one day do with the truth (vv3-4)? As Paul was facing death what had he done (vv6-7)? What do Paul's personal comments say about Paul (vv9-13, 19-22)? What happened at Paul's first defense (vv16-17)?
- 3) Why should we finish strong (vv1-5)? What is finishing strong (vv6-8)? How to finish strong (vv9-22)? What is God speaking to you about your beliefs and behavior so that you can be one who finishes strong? Pray.