

The Books of 2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul's final words to Timothy offer us a glimpse into the heart of a man who had given his life completely to Jesus Christ. Facing execution, Paul did not write with bitterness or despair but with quiet confidence and triumphant hope. He described his approaching death as a drink offering being poured out before God, as the final offering of a life devoted to God's service. Yet death was not an ending to be feared; it was a departure, like a ship releasing its moorings or a soldier striking his tent to move to a new destination. Paul understood that the faithful Christian's journey does not end at the grave. Even as his earthly life drew to a close, eternity with Christ lay before him; a beautiful testimony to a life surrendered to the Lord!

Paul's confidence was rooted in the way he had lived. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (v. 7). His life had not been easy. He had endured opposition, suffering, physical hardships, and imprisonment, yet he never abandoned his calling. He fought the good fight, not because following Jesus would be comfortable, but because serving Christ was worth every struggle. He finished the race, not by avoiding every obstacle, but by enduring to the end with his faith intact. And he kept the faith, faithfully guarding the truth entrusted to him and passing it on without compromise. We, too, are called to this kind of steadfast discipleship. The Lord does not promise that our service will always be easy, our burdens light, or our efforts immediately fruitful. He calls us to remain faithful, to serve when we are weary, to stand firm when we are opposed, and to keep trusting when the finish line seems far away.

But Paul's testimony does not end with what he has done; it points to what the Lord has promised. The emperor who sentenced Paul could take his earthly life, but he could not determine Paul's eternal destiny. That belonged to Jesus, the righteous Judge. Paul anticipated his reward, not with arrogant self-confidence, but with trust in the promises of God. And this hope belongs not to Paul alone, but to "all them that have loved his appearing." Those who long for Christ's return live with their eyes fixed beyond the concerns of this present world. We serve faithfully today because we know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, and we persevere because the One we serve is faithful. Whatever responsibilities weigh upon us, whatever disappointments discourage us, and whatever years of service lie behind us, we have every reason to keep going with fervor. One day, faith will give way to sight, our struggles will be over, and we will stand before the Lord we have loved and served.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: If you were to look back on your life today, what would help you say with confidence that you have fought the good fight and kept the faith? Where is the Lord calling you to renewed faithfulness or greater fervor in your service, even when you feel weary or discouraged? How might a deeper longing for Christ's appearing change the way you approach your daily responsibilities, your relationships, and your opportunities to serve others?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;"

2 Timothy 4:7

Weekly Affirmation:

**TODAY I WILL FIGHT THE
GOOD FIGHT!**

OCTOBER 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Books of 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on these books (*available on the website*).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Celebrate God's goodness each week. Publicly give God credit in conversation with others for the ways you see Him working.