

PAUL'S VICTORY.

6-5-2022 AM

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: 2 Tim. 2:6-8.

B. Regarding the text:

1. 2 Timothy is probably Paul's last letter.
2. As he faces death, he speaks with confidence of his eternal reward (**2 Tim. 4:8**).
 - 1) **2 Tim. 1:12**.
 - 2) **Phil. 1:21**.
3. Paul's confidence was based on God's promise (**Rom. 2:6** "Who will render to every man according to his deeds:").

DISCUSSION: FROM 2 TIM. 4:6-8 WE OBSERVE...

I. "I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT."

A. This "good fight" - is a fight of faith.

1. **1 Tim. 6:12**.
2. **1 Cor. 9:26-27**.

B. This good fight involves:

1. "Contending for the faith" (**Jude 3**).
 - 1) Oppose error (**1 John 4:1**).
 - 2) Identify false teachers (**Rom. 16:17-18**).
2. Teaching the gospel (**Rom. 1:14-15**).
3. Defend the gospel (**Phil. 1:17**).

C. A good soldier must know his weapon. Our weapon is the word of God.

1. **Eph. 6:11 Eph. 6:17**.
2. **Jer. 20:9**.
3. **Acts 17:11** "more noble."
4. **2 Tim. 2:15**.

II. "I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE."

A. The Christian life is compared to a race.

1. **Heb. 12:1-2** - "Lay aside..." "Run with patience..."
2. **Phil. 3:13-14**.
3. **1 Cor. 9:24**.

B. The course is laid out by God.

1. We must run by His rules (**2 Tim. 2:5; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17**).
2. We must stay on the course (**1 John 1:7; 3 John 1:4 + Matt. 7:13-14**).

C. The race must be finished.

1. **Heb. 4:1**.
2. **Gal. 5:7**.

III. "I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH."

A. Even though trials and temptations came, Paul kept the faith.

1. **2 Cor. 11:23-28**.
2. **Acts 20:24**.

B. He suffered these things because he believed in God's promises.

1. **2 Tim. 1:12**.
2. To know God requires learning and doing His will (**1 John 2:3**).
3. God knows everything about you and me.
 - 1) Yet, there is a special way in which God knows us.

2) **1 Cor. 8:3.**

3) **Matt. 7:21.**

4. To know God is to HEAR Him, LOVE Him, and OBEY His commandments.

C. Never forget:

1. **Rev. 2:10.**

2. **1 Cor. 15:58.**

3. **2 Cor. 13:5.**

D. Paul knew that God never made a promise that He failed to keep!

IV. “HENCEFORTH THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF LIFE...”

A. As his life was coming to an end, Paul believed that he had gained the prize.

1. This conclusion came because of his faith.

1) **Phil. 3:14.**

2) **Gal. 2:20.**

3) **1 Pet. 5:4.**

4) **Rev. 3:21.**

2. After his conversion, Paul “walked in the light” (**1John 1:7**).

B. “... the righteous judge...”

1. Note again Paul’s faith shines through.

2. He knew the Lord’s judgment would be right!

1) **Acts 17:31.**

2) **2 Cor. 5:10.**

C. “... and not to me only, but to all them that love His appearing.”

1. That crown of salvation is available to all who “love His appearing.” Have prepared for His coming!

1) **1 Thess. 1:10.**

2) **John 14:1.**

2. The idea is that the faithful will welcome His appearing.

V. CONCLUSION:

A. Paul was confident of his reward.

B. The question is, will we be looking forward to the Lord’s return?

1. We can have this confidence IF WE LOVE HIS APPEARING.

2. **CAN WE SAY** “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.”

C. We often sing; Don’t you want to be ready to go?