

Leaving a Legacy 2 Tim. 4:1-8

From – beginning – Apostle Paul's ministry,
to the end:

...building a legacy...

...future generations – follow

- conversion – Christ: road – Damascus
- missionary journeys
- death – Roman prison...

...Paul set – example: US

As WE close out the year, 2018, what legacy are
WE leaving for others to follow?

**Letter: 2 Timothy conveys – heart...
...Apostle Paul**

- most influential leader:
...early Christian church

Ltr. written: c. 64-68 A.D.

- Roman prison
- last – Paul’s ltrs
- after – burning – Rome (64 A.D.) ...
...tremendous persecution – Christianity
- Roman Caesar, Nero – declared Christianity illegal
- Paul – imprisoned
- Timothy – pastoring – Ephesus

Ltr: more personal & less official – other ltrs

- emotional language: warmly human

...but also gave evidence:

...deep concern – church

Tone – ltr: blend – gloom & joy

- impending death
- Paul – alone / prison...only Luke with him
- compassion re: church...

...caused anxiety & revealed his shepherd's heart

Contrast:

- unwavering faith – sovereign God
- privilege – serving God: worth any sacrifice

Immediate purpose – ltr:

...clarion call – Timothy

Paul knew: death – imminent

- ^ his words: significant

Was serving Christ worth the sacrifice?

Were the hardships worth it?

Ltr. – 2 Timothy: “last will & testament”

...his life & his legacy

2 Tim. 4:1-8, I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Message today: 2 parts

Part 1: last words – man, facing death

Focus: vv 6-7

- v 6: reference – OT sacrificial practice

6, For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

- wine – poured out on: sacrifice

Paul's illus.:

...his blood, now – poured out: sacrifice

- inference: winning – lost --- sacrifice to God
- his death – complete the sacrifice

departure: certainly – reference...
...his impending execution

- comforting relief – impending death

2 Cor. 4:17, For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

Rom. 8:18, For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**Paul kept – issue – life & death:
...proper perspective**

As Paul looked back at his life &...

...contemplated his legacy...

Metaphor: athletic competition

7, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

1) *fought the good fight*: positive comment

- joyful expression – serving Christ
- “righteous cause”

Paul: spiritual warrior

- stood before Felix, Agrippa, & other Roman officials
- endured – riots & arrest / Ephesus
- faced – opposition / Corinth
- many struggles: missionary journeys
- inflicted w/many hardships...summarized:
...2 Cor. 11

*2 Cor. 11:24-28, Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. *** YOU???!!!*

Paul: one “tough cookie”

2) *finished the course*

- Christian service almost completed (death)
- finished his life w/no regrets

Acts 20:24, However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

- beautiful outlook:

...Christian service & Christian life

Paul would soon: *“finish his course”*

3) *kept the faith:*

- guarded & defended...

...msg / entrusted to him

- ✓ against attacks: Judaizers
- ✓ against skeptical philosophers
- ✓ against compromise

Paul's legacy:

1) letters written &

2) lives – impacted

Apostle Paul invested his life:

...young pastor, Timothy

Whose life are YOU impacting for Christ?

What legacy are YOU leaving – future generations?

Part II: msg – MY personal application (vv 6-7)

If I were writing vv 6-7, they would read like this...

I have served CBC for my entire pastoral ministry and the time of my service is coming to an end. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

And now I have a letter to share with you...