



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**"FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, FINISHED THE COURSE, KEPT THE FAITH"-2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8  
COLORADO MARCH 7, 2017**

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*Paul had stood before the officials of Rome with courage...Felix, Agrippa, Nero. He endured riots in Ephesus and much opposition in Corinth. He persevered through stonings, beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks and all kinds of persecution for Jesus Christ on his missionary journeys spanning 30 years since his conversion on that Damascus road. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 spells out many of the hardships he faced through those years. And now he awaited certain death. But for Paul, death was not a dark cloud, because death held no peril on him. It was a move from this demanding and painful life to the infinitely glorious life of peace and rest to come, when he would be forever with the Lord! For every Christian, death is exchanging the burden of this earthly life for the eternal joy of heaven. (Philippians 1:21) There is no hopelessness or despair at his departing. Paul dies with divine assurance that his real life was about to begin for he could say he had fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith.<sup>1</sup> May we all be able to say that with the same certainty.*

## **I. "FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, FINISHED THE COURSE, KEPT THE FAITH"- PART ONE- 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8**

*"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." 2 Timothy 4:6-8*

In these verses Paul tells us how to live and how to die. Languishing in Rome's cold, dripping subterranean Mamortine prison with mud and dust caking his existence. He was a poor man shivering in inadequate clothing, forsaken by many, charged with sedition, he suffered contempt and abuse from his jailers. He was a joke amongst his enemies, reasoning that his final miseries were proof that God was not with him. All that and yet Paul in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 offers a glorious declaration of personal triumph; looking at his present condition, his past life of faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his future home with Christ forever in heaven! Paul gave all to Christ... *even his last breath!*

## **A. "POURED OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE HAS COME"- 2 TIMOTHY 4:6**

Paul implores Timothy with imperative urgency to be faithful because he would not be in this world much longer. Timothy must carry on God's work. Timothy must fulfill the ministry God had given him. Paul is saying his life had reached the place where he would be sacrificially poured out. Notice he didn't say executed. Rather he was offering his life to God as a sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2) and he would gladly lay it down. Roman citizens could not be

crucified but could expect beheading. And though Paul was a Roman citizen, he saw his life as being poured out for Christ's sake. His entire life was about sacrificial service to his Lord and Savior.

**"departure"** Greek **"analysis"** vivid word that talks about leaving this life. Unyoking an animal from a cart or plow, word for loosening bonds or fetters, word for loosening the ropes of a tent or words for loosening the mooring ropes of a ship.<sup>3</sup>

Paul was about to depart this life as the loosening of a ship from its moorings or a soldier loosening the stakes of his tent. That's the image here as though Paul is lifting his anchor, tossing aside the ropes and joyfully sailing to a better place. He would exchange the confines of a Roman prison for the liberty of the courts of heaven. Paul was setting out on his last and greatest journey across the waters of death on a voyage that ends in the very presence of God Almighty. This was Paul's dream. He wrote in Philippians 1:23 *"having the desire to depart and be with Christ"* because that is far better he said. It is far better to be with Christ! Far better! Now the ship was about to leave. Paul was ready... *are you?*<sup>4</sup>

## **B. "I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT"- 2 TIMOTHY 4:7A**

Paul said he had *"fought the good fight"*! His analogy refers to an athletic event which required great effort and energy.

**"fought"** Greek **"agonizomai"** perfect tense verb meaning forever done, intense, agonizing struggle.

**"good"** Greek **"kalos"** meaning noble, honorable.

**"fight"** Greek **"agon"** any contest involving intense exertion, a relentless struggle.

The Greek verb *"fought"* refers to a completed action, forever done, that has continuing results into the future. Clearly it refers to an intense, agonizing struggle. The faithful life of a believer is nothing less than a fierce and relentless struggle in a noble, good battle of pleasing God and glorifying Him in all things. That's the good and faithful fight that Paul speaks of here. And when it is done and the fight has been fought, it is forever done and leads to eternal life with Jesus Christ.

This *"good fight"* means that we consider *"all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ."* Philippians 3:4-7. It's serving selflessly, expending oneself for the radical call and cause of Christ...obediently, faithfully, and relentlessly. It yielding every gift, every opportunity and every day for Jesus Christ! It's desiring first

## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

# Colorado

**“FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, FINISHED THE COURSE, KEPT THE FAITH”-2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8** *“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.”*

and foremost to glorify God in your life and comes with accepting His plan for your life.

Yes Paul fought the good fight. And what about you? Are you engaged in this good and noble battle of life? You cannot unless you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. That’s where Paul’s journey began as he acknowledged his need for a Savior to save him from his sins. And when he surrendered his life to Christ, he was transformed and given a mission; expending every energy in life long service to his Savior. Paul could say “I have fought, with great effort and intensity, this good and noble fight which God called me to.” *Can you say the same?*

## C. “I HAVE FINISHED THE COURSE”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:7B

Paul said that he had *“finished the course.”*

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**“finished”** Greek **“dromos”** refers to running a race, used of fulfilling a lifetime career, occupation or military service.

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The word *“finished”* is another intense verb describing the discipline necessary to complete a long and grueling competition. It’s easy to begin and hard to finish. Yes life is hard and it is easy quit, to give up. But *“finish”* mean that you never quit, you never let anything interfere or distract you from completing the goal. We cannot fail on the last lap.

Paul reached his goal. What was that? In Acts 20:24 Paul writes, *“in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.”* Paul finished the course God had for him. All of our callings are unique. We all run a different course... *“the race that is set before us”* as the writer of Hebrews explains. (Hebrews 12:1) Our course, as believers, is marked out for us, laid out by our sovereign, omniscient God. It is the course laid out for us from the beginning of time by Him. Paul said he had finished the marathon given him by God. Nothing had been left undone.

Paul’s lifetime career, his divinely appointed mission was serving God and pleasing Him all the days of his life. It was one of glorifying Jesus Christ through whatever He asked him to endure...to the end, which for Paul and all believers is only the beginning! That’s why these strong Greek verbs used here in 2 Timothy 4:7 refer to a completed action with results that continue on into the future... *fought, finished, kept!* The continuing result refers to the eternal life in heaven forever as the outcome of our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Yes Paul finished the course...all the way to the end! He suffered gracefully, fought fiercely, persevered tirelessly and he submitted to God’s perfect plan, His *“course”* for Paul’s life.

And what about you? What course are you on? Who are you serving and following? Are you completing what God has planned for you with an unwillingness to give up or give in? Have you been wandering? Surrender to Him now! Our Lord doesn’t require perfection, only faithfulness. Paul’s journey on this earth has come to an end. *What about yours?*

## D. “I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:7C

Paul said that he had *“kept the faith”*.

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**“kept”** Greek **“tefereka”** watching over, preserve.

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That strong verb *“kept”* refers to watching over, preserving, guarding, defending, protecting through thick and thin as a faithful soldier. Paul looked back across the embattled years and proclaimed with utter confidence and finality these words regarding his noble struggle, “I preached it, I lived it, I kept it.” He had safely preserved and proclaimed the gospel treasure committed to his trust.

Paul’s faith in Jesus Christ was about a relationship and not just a religion. It was a way of life and not just a Sunday morning ritual! He faithfully lived life to the fullest. He loved Christ more and more each day and thus love people more each day. He remained committed to sharing the most important thing in life and that was telling others about the good news of salvation found only in Jesus Christ. He remained faithful, sustained by the grace and strength provided from the Lord for each day. And he continued through all obstacles, regardless of the cost. Paul kept the faith holding fast to the truth and guarding the gospel in season and out.

Paul kept the faith. And what about you? Could you say, you have kept the faith regardless of the cost? Have you defended the truth, shared the gospel and lived the lifechanging message of faith in Jesus Christ? That is a life of no regrets. That’s a life of purpose! That’s a journey of serving and pleasing God. That’s being faithful to the end! *Have you safely preserved and proclaimed the gospel treasure committed to your trust? Have you kept the faith regardless of the cost?*

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<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.190-191.

<sup>2</sup>Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus: To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 249-250.

<sup>3</sup>Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.235-236.

<sup>4</sup>Platte, David; Akin, Daniel L.; Merida, Tony, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, Tennessee, 2013. Pg.213.