



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

“THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”-2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

COLORADO

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Paul implores Timothy with imperative urgency to be faithful because he would not be in this world much longer. Paul's entire life was about sacrificial service to his Lord and Savior and Timothy must carry on God's work and fulfill the ministry God had given him. 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. Paul is 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. 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.¹ May we all be able to say that with the same certainty.

I. “THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, PART 2

“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

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 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.

A. “IN THE FUTURE THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:8A

Paul continues with what is next to come, what follows the fight, the course, and keeping the faith. He is about to be executed and looks to what will soon come. He says that *“in the future”*, referring to that which remains. What was left to come for Paul after his past and present were finished, would be by far the most glorious part of his life in Christ.² So where does this journey lead? Where does this relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ in this life take us? Can we know with assured certainty where Paul is and where all believers in Christ will be forever? Yes we can know for God's authoritative Word says that in the end, there is *“laid up”* meaning safely stored and carefully guarded a crown, a victor's prize of eternal life, a prize

of eternal righteousness in heaven with Jesus Christ...a *“crown of righteousness”*.

B. “A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:8B

What has God safely stored, promised and carefully guarded for Paul? The *“crown of righteousness”*, the prize of eternal righteousness in heaven with Jesus Christ forever! And this crown is not a perishable wreath, but imperishable as 1 Corinthians 9:25 confirms, *“And everyone who competes in the games exercise self control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”* Paul looked forward to an eternal righteousness. This was his pursuit for he writes in Philippians 3:14, *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* Paul pressed on no matter the obstacles or hardships in life having absolute confidence that his labors were not in vain. He knew God had *“laid up”* for him, safely stored and carefully guarded the privilege and prize of seeing his Lord face to face in heaven and living there eternally forever. This was Paul's prize, his crown of eternal righteousness. This *was* Paul's journey! This *is* Paul's journey!

C. “THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:8C

Though the Roman Emperor Nero declared Paul guilty, Jesus Christ, the righteous Judge would declare him *righteous* and award him the crown of righteousness. Even if the world condemned Paul, God did not. And with the Lord, there are no favorites and no unfair decisions in His perfect judgments. *“On that day”* when the Lord returns, Paul wrote this, *“we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’”* (1 Corinthians 15:51-54).

D. “AND NOT ONLY TO ME BUT TO ALL WHO HAVE LOVED HIS APPEARING”- 2 TIMOTHY 4:8D

You see the last part of this verse refers to a promise made not just for Paul, but for *“all who have loved His appearing”*. There is a certainty for all who have surrendered their life to Jesus Christ and that is eternal life with Him forever in heaven. It is a journey that has no end in death, only a beginning. This crown of righteousness isn't reserved just for the few, but for all; everyone who have loved *“His appearing”* and are *“looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the*

BIBLE STUDIES

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

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“THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”-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.”*

glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus...” (Titus 2:13) And here Paul reminds Timothy again of the reality that Jesus Christ will visibly return in the future as he mentioned in verse one of this same chapter. Jesus Christ will return again. And when He does, He will award the crown of righteousness to all *“who have loved His appearing”*. So live your life in view of His imminent, certain, and future return. And be encouraged now with this certain hope all believers in Jesus Christ have to look forward to.

E. “WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”- MATTHEW 25:21, 23

The end awaits us all and for some it will be sooner than we think. In that final moment may we all have lived in such a way that as we see our approaching death, we see triumph and victory as Paul. Paul could look back on his life and say, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith”*. And Scripture gives us a clue as to what the Lord Jesus said to him. In Matthew 25, Jesus gives a parable regarding talents given by the Master to His servants. To the faithful two servants, the Master said what any servant would want to hear, *“Well done good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.”* (Matthew 25:21, 23) Those are the words I want to hear.

And what about you? Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? We will all die, that is a certainty. What makes a difference is knowing, surrendering and loving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior! If Paul could poke his head down from heaven right now he would tell you there is no greater time then now to acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. He would tell you to come all the way to Jesus Christ and at the foot of the cross where He bore the penalty for your sins, to acknowledge them before Him, repent and confess them to God. Then turn to Him in faith and submit your life completely to Him as your Lord and Savior. Follow and serve Him. It is a journey you will never regret!

If you are not fighting the good fight, what needs to change? Evaluate your life. Don't wait.

For you who genuinely know Christ... we too have a fight to endure, a race to run and a treasure to guard. God has a plan, a purpose and a course for your life. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength and mind. Press on and fight the good fight for it is a noble one worth contending for. Run the course God has given you with faithfulness and perseverance. And finish the race God has planned for you, though it may be hard and painful along the way. Finish well! Live for God's glory. On that day when we see Christ, we will not regret fighting, running and enduring for His name sake! May the following be our firm resolve:

I AM A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST!

*The dye has been cast,
I have stepped over the line.
The decision has been made.
I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.
I will not look up, let up, slow down,
back away, or be still.
I no longer need preeminence, prosperity,
position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity.
I do not have to be right, I do not have to be first,
I do not have to be recognized, praised,
regarded, or rewarded.
My pace is set, my gaze is fast, my goal is heaven.
My road is narrow, my way is rough,
my companions are few.
My Guide is reliable.
My mission is clear.
I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred,
lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.
I will not give up, back up, let up or shut up
until I have preached up, prayed up, stored up
and stayed up the cause of Christ.
I must go until He returns.
I must give until I drop.
I must preach until all know.
And I must work until He comes.
And when He comes back for His own,
He will have no trouble recognizing me.
My colors will be clear,
and my flag will be nailed to the mast.
I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.*

*(Printed from Dr. Steve Lawson's message, "It Will Cost You Everything"
given on January 15, 2017)*

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

²MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.198.