

The Example of Paul

Looking your own imminent death in the face can give you incredible clarity.

- Jacob blessed his sons and worshiped God.
- Joseph made his brothers vow to take his _____ to the promised land.
- Moses gave a series of last messages which are recorded in the book of Deuteronomy.
- David was “going the way of all the earth” and gave Solomon some final encouragement.
- Hezekiah was told by Isaiah to put his _____ in order. Hezekiah prayed, begged God, wept bitterly.
- Jesus spent his last several hours teaching, encouraging and praying with his disciples.
- 2 Peter is Peter’s last letter. He wanted the brethren to always have reminders.
- Revelation contains some of John’s final words. John wrote, “Even so, _____ Lord Jesus.”

2 Timothy is Paul’s “swan song,” his final letter before his execution to his beloved son in the faith, Timothy.

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 race, I have _____ the faith. Henceforth 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.

Paul’s example – How Paul “kept the faith.”

- 1. Paul didn’t focus on problems but on the _____ of God.**
 - a. Look at Paul’s sufferings (1 Corinthians 4:8-13; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 6:1-10; 11:18-33; 12:7-10).
 - b. Paul bore in his body the _____ of the Lord Jesus (Galatians 6:17).
 - c. If Paul were to focus only on his sufferings and trauma, he would have quit Jesus.
 - d. Paul’s identity, calling and work were tied to the “promise of life that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:1).
- 2. Paul was not driven by cowardice but by _____ in Christ.**
 - a. It isn’t that Paul was never afraid (Acts 18:9-10; 1 Corinthians 2:3; Ephesians 6:18-20).
 - b. 2 Timothy 1:7-14 – I _____ whom I have believed.
 - c. 1 Timothy 4:10 – We have our hope set on the living God who is the Savior of all people.
- 3. Paul didn’t dwell on the departure but rather on the _____.**
 - a. The word “departure” from 2 Timothy 4:6 – Ship taking up anchor, soldiers breaking up camp.
 - i. Paul often talked about his departure (Philippians 1:23; Acts 20:29; 2 Cor. 5:7-10).
 - ii. Others knew of their coming departure: Jesus (Luke 9:31) and Peter (2 Peter 1:15).
 - b. People live in fear of death. Jesus came to free us from that (Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 4:17-19).
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:6-8,19 – Paul knew being with Jesus was his destination.
 - d. Acts 20:24 – But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my _____ and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.