



Pastor Derrick Shields “Paul: A Compelling Legacy” 7/25/2021

Key Verses:

- 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Key Thoughts:

- How do you want to be remembered? Paul answered this question by writing how own epitaph from a Roman jail with the knowledge that he would soon die.
- A legacy is what will endure or survive. It involves living intentionally and giving to the next generation for their success. Paul knew the end was near and, in this book, he writes to a man that he'd mentored, disciplined, and loved.
- John Bingham transformed his life from being out of shape to a marathon runner and his only goal was to finish a race. He said, “as I stand at the starting line, I know that somewhere out there is a finish line.” One of the most important things in our lives as believers is to finish well.

Questions to Consider:

1. What kind of departure will you have?

- Paul talks about being poured out like a drink offering. He makes a similar statement in Philippians 2:17-18. He's referring to the sacrificial system for mankind. In the Old Testament, wine was a symbol of joy. When sacrifices were made, they would pour wine on the burnt offering to make an aroma that would be pleasing to God.
- **Paul is telling Timothy that he's willingly given everything for the Lord and now the moment has come for him to willingly lay down his life.**
- The Greek word for departure has four different meanings: (1) unyoking an animal from a plow, (2) loosing bonds of a prisoner, (3) loosening the ropes of a tent when you're ready to camp, (4) loosening the ropes of a ship. Death in this world is casting off the ropes that bind of to this world to set sail on a voyage that ends in the presence of God. So, we should not be afraid of it.

2. What kind of legacy will you leave?

- He says he has fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.
 - Paul writes to another group of believers about this in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10.
 - We cannot say Paul had an easy life, but he never stopped living for Jesus. He lived a directional life. He followed the course the Lord set before him.
 - There was a professor that went on a 1,000-mile backpacking trip with his son and they faced discouragement along the way. Findings for people who set out to hike 500 miles:
 - 90% never make it, 50% never get started, 40% quit after they start.
 - The 10% who succeeded came to two conclusions:
 1. They would finish no matter what.
 2. Bad things would happen so they would not be surprised or dismayed.
- Paul understood this: the key to the Christian life is simply putting one foot front of the other. One step at a time, one day at a time.**



3. What kind of reward will you receive?

- Paul knew there was a “crown of righteousness” in store for him. **Paul could see beyond his own death. He sees a glorious reward.**
- In contrast the unrighteous ruler who’s about to have him beheaded, the righteous ruler gives him eternal life. And he says that this reward is “also for those who have longed for his appearing”: that’s us!

Discussion Questions:

- With whom are you currently trying to reproduce yourself? If the answer is “no one”, ask God to direct you to someone.
- Does the idea of departing to be with Christ cause you more fear or peace? If fear, how can this change?
- When do you feel like dropping out of the race? What encourages you to keep going at those times?