

Finishing Strong

2 Timothy 4:1-8

1. Soundness

1 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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 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, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:1-4

- To win at the finish line don't compromise "sound **doctrine**" – reject a lukewarm "tickle"
- Don't compromise even when it goes against your "**desires**" – stick to the truth
- Do not compromise when it is hard to hear – "**endure** sound doctrine"
- Keep proclaiming and living out the truth "with great **patience**"

2. Soberness

5 **But you, be sober in all things**, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and **the time of my departure has come**. 7 **I have fought the good fight**, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 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 4:5-8

- Don't allow circumstances, or others, or even your emotions to knock you off track
- Keep in mind your "departure" – it's coming!
- Don't become numb or careless (drunk) to the realities of the spiritual battle around you
 - You must "fight the good fight" – there is a fight to fight!
 - You must trust the Lord to judge righteously every person who claims Jesus as Lord – "Demas having loved this present world" – v10; "Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm" – v14
 - Maintain a focus on the reward waiting for you at the finish line

3. Steadfastness

5 But you, be sober in all things, **endure hardship, do the work** of an evangelist, **fulfill your ministry**. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have **fought the good fight**, I have **finished the course**, I have **kept the faith**; 8 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 4:5-8

- "Endure hardship" – it's not always easy
- "Do the work" – keep showing up regardless of what others do
- "Fulfill your ministry" – keep doing your "calling"
- "Fight the good fight" – sometimes it's a personal "fight" just to "keep the faith"
- "Keep the faith" – there is a finish line coming up! Don't look back! Keep looking forward! **Keep the Faith!**