

2 Timothy: The Bible, Your Anchor and Weapon 2024-02-18

2 Timothy 4:6-8

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 race, I have kept the faith.

8 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.

What criterion use as **measurement of success** of our **lives**? Good works, money, family.

- **Criterion Paul** used: had he **kept the faith** in Jesus and **fought good fight**.
 - **Bible** was his and our **anchor** for **keeping faith** and **weapon** for the **fight**.

Nero started fire that **destroyed half of Rome** in **64 AD** then **blamed** it on **Christians**.

- **Christians** now **official enemies** of **state**, subject public **torture**, and **execution**.

Paul charged with “**propagating forbidden cult**” and **imprisoned second time** **after** being **free** for **several years** after first imprisonment.

- **Second** imprisonment **very different** from **first**: in own rented house and cell, accessible and alone, hope for **freedom**, expected to **die**.....**executed soon** after **writing 2 Timothy** around **64-67 AD**
 - **Last will** and testament: **farewell and exhortation** to friend. See outline at the end.

Church **constantly** under **hardship and attacks**, both **inside and outside** the church.

- Paul **exhortation**: stand firm, **endure** and **be strong** by being **rooted in Scripture**.
 - **At end**: asked for **cloak** warm body, **Scripture** to warm soul.
 - **In dark** and difficult time **Jesus’ love** and faithfulness **most tangible** and real.
- **Old Testament scripture** Paul’s **foundation and anchor** for **keep faith**. 2 Timothy 3:14-16a, 4:13

Both Old Testament and New Testament are “**breathed out by God**” ...Bible literally **WORDS OF GOD**.

- God’s **inspired rev** of Himself **written** by **authors guided** by **His Spirit**
 - **Thus infallible** in **original** writings: **incapable of error**, never wrong, **absolutely trustworthy**. 2 Peter 1:19-21, John 17:17
- **No other authority** needed, and **no need** for **addendums**!

- Bible **reveals truth** about **sin and self**, gospel, **riches in Jesus**, what **happened in eternity past**, and **will happen in eternity future...**
 - **Gives wisdom that leads to salvation** and **ways to know and enjoy Jesus.**
 - **Equips** for “**every good work.**” 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **Scripture purpose:** teach, **challenge**, correct, **train**, equip to **fight good fight.**
 - **Fighting good fight same as keeping** the faith.

Bible anchor “**keep faith**” and **weapon “fight good fight”** 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:11-12

- Enough **old nature** make **faith a struggle.** **Keeping faith lifelong task.**
 - **Not live victorious Christian life** if **don't know Word.**
 - **Jesus fought good fight by Word** three times in **desert.**
Matthew 4:1-11
- **Word will change** what you **desire** so **obey freely and joyfully** from **within rather than coerced** from **without.**
 - **Read, memorize, and meditate** on **Word** for **internal transform** that **naturally produces outward fruit.** Colossians 1:10, Romans 12:1-2, John 15:5, Ephesians 6:16-18

Not manufacture strength but **strength from trusting in Jesus' infinite power.**

- **Holy Spirit and Word** always **work and fight together.**
 - God **faithful to equip and strengthen** us to **keep faith and fight good fight.**
 - “**When I try, I fail. When I trust, He succeeds.**” 2 Timothy 2:3-7, 4:7-8

Under God, Scriptures greatest treasure in **world.**

- **Bible is anchor** for **keeping the faith** and a **weapon for fighting good fight.**
 - **Continue in absolute allegiance** to **unchanging truth** of **God's Word.**
- **Be dedicated** like **soldier**; **disciplined** like **athlete**; **diligent** like **farmer** in **building LEFC, marriage, family, future** on **precious, powerful Word.**

1 Timothy Outline

1:1-5 INTRODUCTION

1:6-2:13 EXHORTATIONS TO BOLDNESS & FAITHFULNESS

1:6-14 Be Courageous

1:15-18 Be Steadfast and Loyal

2:1-13 Endure Hardship

2:14-4:5 EXHORTATIONS TO SOUND DOCTRINE

2:14-26 In the Face of False Teachers

3:1-9 In View of Perilous Times to Come

3:10-17 By Abiding in The Scriptures

4:1-5 By Preaching the Word

4:6-18 EXHORTATIONS TO COME QUICKLY

4:6-8 Paul's End Is Near
4:9-18 Paul's Circumstances and Requests
4:19-22 CONCLUSION