

**FINISHING  
WELL?**

**2 TIMOTHY 4:1-7**

## **2 Timothy 4:1-7**

**1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;**

**2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

## **2 Timothy 4:1-7 - continued**

**5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

**6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.**

**7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

# Introduction

## A. The context of Paul's letter

1. Writing from prison in Rome

2. Waiting for final judgment (4:6, 16-17)

## 2 Timothy 4:16-17

**16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.**

**17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.**

# Introduction

**B. The circumstances that Paul faces (4:9-12, 14-15)**

**1. Alone except for Luke (vv 9-12)**

**2 Timothy 4:9-12**

**9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:**

**10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.**

**11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.**

**12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.**

# Introduction

**B. The circumstances that Paul faces (4:9-12, 14-15)  
(continued)**

**2. Actions of an adversary (vv 14-15)**

**2 Timothy 4:14-15**

**14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:**

**15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.**

**1 Timothy 1:20**

**Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

# Introduction

**C. The charge that Paul makes (vv 1-2)**

**1 Timothy 6:12**

**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

## **A. For self**

### **1. A constant struggle**

**Romans 7:23**

**But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**

### **2. A committed struggle**

**1 Corinthians 9:26-27**

**26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**

**27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**



# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

**Nehemiah 4:13-15**

**13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.**

**14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.**

**15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

## **B. For your family**

### **1. Know that the enemy is out there (v 15)**

**Ephesians 4:27**

**Neither give place to the devil.**

### **2. Personal involvement required (v 14)**

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

**4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

**5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

## **C. For the body of Christ**

### **1. An individual fight**

#### **Ephesians 5:1-3**

**1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;**

**2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.**

**3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

## **C. For the body of Christ - continued**

### **2. An important fight**

#### **a. Cannot afford to lose**

### **Revelation 3:1-2**

**1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.**

**2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

## **C. For the body of Christ - continued**

### **2. An important fight**

#### **b. Casualties are numerous**

#### **Revelation 3:3-4**

**3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**

**4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

**C. For the body of Christ - continued**

**2. An important fight**

**c. Consequences are eternal**

**Revelation 3:6-7**

**5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

**6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

# **I. Are You Fighting A Good Fight?**

**C. For the body of Christ - continued**

**3. An invincible fight**

**Matthew 18:18**

**And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

## **II. Did You Finish What God Wanted You To Do?**

### **A. Have you delayed to finish?**

**Luke 9:61-62**

**61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.**

**62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**



## **II. Did You Finish What God Wanted You To Do?**

**B. Are you making excuses to start?**

**Luke 14:18-20**

**18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.**

**19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.**

**20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.**

## **II. Did You Finish What God Wanted You To Do?**

**C. You can finish what has been left undone through God  
Zechariah 4:6-9**

**6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.**

**8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,**

**9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.**

### **III. Are You Keeping The Faith?**

**A. It is absolutely essential**

**1 Timothy 1:18-19**

**18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**

**19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:**

## **III. Are You Keeping The Faith?**

**B. Do you listen to what people say about the Bible or what the Bible says? (vv 3-4)**

**2 Timothy 4:3-4**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

### **III. Are You Keeping The Faith?**

**C. Do you have faith when challenged? (v 5)**

**Matthew 16:8**

**Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?**

**D. Examine yourself**

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**

**Are You More Like Christ Today  
Than At the Beginning Of This Year?**

**End This Year Right With God**