



**Cutting a New Path
Building a Better You
(Develop the Habit of Completing)**

February 16-17, 2019

Text: 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV)

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Four Big Questions for This Month:

1. **Are you facing your habits?** (list your good and bad habits; Galatians 5:16 -6:0)
2. Are you **lying** to yourself and others? (Acts 5)
3. Are you **investing** in your future? (Luke 19:1-10)
4. Are you **completing** your life’s assignment? (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Today’s Big Question: Are you completing your life’s assignment?

**Paul’s Course Described
2 Timothy 4:1–18 (NKJV)**

I. Preaching

- 1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom 2a Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.

II. Convincing

- **2b Convince**, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

III. Completing

- 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

IV. Forgiving

1. Demas forsook him and only Luke was with him

- 9 Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for **Demas has forsaken me**, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. 11 **Only Luke is with me. Get Mark**

and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.

2. Alexander wronged him and no one stood with him at trial

- **14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm.** May the Lord repay him according to his works 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. **16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me.** May it not be charged against them. 17 But **the Lord stood with me and strengthened me**, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also, I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Conclusion

1. Paul was clear about his **finish line** (It was imposed on him)
2. Paul was honest about his **feelings** (He felt offended by some and abandoned by others)
3. Paul was clear about his **rewards** (Are you clear about your reward?)

Next Time: Building a Better Vision

Big Question: How far do you see down the road? Do you know where you are going?

Read Ahead: Acts 1:6–8 (NKJV): 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, **will You at this time** restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “**It is not for you to know** times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 **But you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”