

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: Finishing Well

Sermon Series: Growing Older: Better With Age

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

OPENING QUESTION

1. If you knew for sure your life would come to an end sometime this year (or Christ would return sometime this year), how would that change the way you live?

INTO THE BIBLE

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8

This passage is toward of conclusion of Paul's last letter, which was written to his young associate, Timothy. Paul was in prison and awaiting trial and possible death.

2. In v. 6 Paul uses the metaphor of a drink offering, like wine, that was poured out as a last act of sacrifice (See Numbers 15:1-10). Is Paul frightened by the prospect of death? Why or why not?
3. As Paul looks back at his life in v. 7, was it an easy and comfortable life? Did Paul feel he accomplished what he wanted in his life or was he filled with regret? Based on what you know of Paul, what was his focus in life?
4. In v. 8, Paul gives us his motive in how he lived his focused life. What did Paul believe was in the future awaiting him and others who longed for Christ's return?
5. We often think of judgment in a negative way. How does Paul see judgment? Why does he use the adjective "righteous" to the Judge ?

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

6. Stephen Covey wrote a famous book called 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The 2nd habit is "Begin with the end in mind." He says, "to begin each day, task, or project with a clear vision of your desired direction and destination, and then continue by flexing your proactive muscles to make things happen." How would you relate this to your life and what Paul wrote in this passage.
7. Covey says that one of the best ways to incorporate Habit 2 into your life is to develop a Personal Mission Statement. Take a few moments to write out your personal mission statement.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Matt 6:19-21

19 *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.*

20 *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

(NIV)