

II Timothy 4: Be a Finisher

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I. Introduction.

A. Key cross-reference: 1 Corinthians 15:55.

B. Sections.

1. The replacement's charge. (1-5)
2. The veteran's leave. (6-8)
3. The troops reviewed. (9-18)
4. Farewell to arms. (19-22)

II. The replacement's charge. (1-5)

A. 1 Corinthians 15:55 sums up this book.

1. The ultimate test of a soldier is not only how he lives but how he dies.
2. How does your faith look at the time of death?
3. A key test for other religions is to find out what the view of death is.

B. The authority behind the charge is the authority of heaven and earth.

1. Timothy must respond to the need of the hour because of this authority.
2. Timothy must respond also because he would be judged. (2 Corinthians 5:10-11)
3. The authority is the living presence and reality of Christ.

C. The contents of the charge.

1. Preach the Word.

- a. It is the lion. Let it loose. You do not need to defend it.
- b. It should be the heart of what you are sharing.
- c. The Word breaks the hard hearts of people for the glory of Christ. (Jeremiah 23:29)

2. Be urgent when in all seasons whether it is inconvenient or convenient.

- a. Seldom is there an ideal season.

b. Do not look for fair weather to do your evangelism. (Ecclesiastes 7:4)

3. Rebuke.

a. There is a difference between contending for the faith and being contentious for the faith.

b. Contending must be done in love. (Ephesians 4:15)

4. Never lose patience.

a. Patience comes in trials.

b. It is a matter of plodding over talent.

D. Reasons for the charge.

1. People will reject sound truth.

2. People will choose what they want to hear and whom they want to hear it from.

3. People will stumble into manmade fictions.

E. Keys to victory.

1. Steadfastness. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

2. Accept suffering.

3. We are to evangelize and make progress in the ministry regardless of our gifts.

III. The veteran's leave. (6-8)

A. The man who lives well will die well.

1. Death levels all men proving that God is equitable.

2. When it comes time to die make sure all that you have to do is die.

3. To be with Christ is far better. (Philippians 1:21)

B. Confidence regarding the past.

C. Hope regarding the future.

1. Saved sinners are promised a reward.

2. So great is God's goodness to men that He wills that his works should be merits even though they are merely His gifts.

3. We are to live looking for His coming with an open hand regarding our possessions. (1 John 2:28)

IV. The troops reviewed. (9-18)

A. The troops were raggedy like those of Jesus. (Matthew 28:17)

B. The court trial reveals:

1. The need for diligence.

2. The character of men.

a. There are often deserters like Demas.

b. We can never understand the true state of someone until he undergoes suffering. Therefore, new converts should not be lifted up too quickly. (1 Timothy 3:6)

c. Actual desertion always takes place with the heart before the feet.

V. Farewell to arms. (19-22)

A. Personal needs take a back seat to the needs of the world.

B. All Paul wanted was a coat, books and paper that he might write more to others.

Application questions.

1. Explain Paul's charge to Timothy. Why was this important?

2. How does the "veteran's leave" illustrate the proper attitude the Christian is to have toward his life?

3. Where will your character be found on the day of judgment? What three things will you do to give God a place to bring sanctification into your life?
