

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE SERMON OUTLINE

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## THE LEGACY OF FINISHING WELL

### II Timothy 4:6-8

We will all leave a legacy of some sort – the question is what it will be. A legacy is something that remains after we leave this world – something that speaks of our lives. Our legacy is a reality, and we all have one.

I love the story for the 1968 the Olympics that were held in Mexico City. During the 26-mile marathon, the runner from Tanzania, John Stephen Akhwari, took a bad fall in which he dislocated his shoulder and tore a hole in his knee midway through the race.

When a reporter asked him why he did not quit the race, he replied, “My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race, they sent me 5,000 miles to finish it.”

From our scripture passage herein 2 Timothy 4 - Paul is in prison and is on the last lap of his life. Paul is determined to be faithful to the finish. I see three dimensions to his devotion, three tenses if you will –

#### 1. A PRESENT LIFE WITH NO RESTRICTIONS V. 6

At the end of his life, Paul declares that he is “already being poured out like a drink offering...” The phrase “poured out” refers to the pouring out of a drink offering.

Paul is on death row in Rome and his time is almost up. The word “*departure*” literally means, “an unloosing” and was used when throwing off a ship’s cables, pulling up anchor and setting sail. It was also used in a military sense when taking down the tents and of losing the bonds of a prisoner. It was also used of unyoking an animal from a heavy burden like a plow.

Secondly To Finish Well....

#### 2. A PAST LIFE WITH NO REGRETS V. 7

- ◆ **He lived a directional life:**

- ◆ **He lived a disciplined life:** The word “*fight*” is the word “*agonizomai*” in Greek, from which we get the word agony.

He had finished his race. Paul next describes himself as a skilled runner in an obstacle course. Notice that Paul does not say that he “*won*” the race, as if it’s a competition. We’re not fighting each other or racing against one another.

- ◆ **He led a doctrinal life:**

He kept the faith. Through all the trials, Paul’s trust in God remained intact. Never once did he give in to doubts about God’s power or promises. The word “*kept*” was used of keeping watch, or guarding a treasure that’s been entrusted to one’s care.

When the time of our departure comes, the question is not, “*How did I do?*” but “*Did I pour myself out for God’s purposes?*” If you want to finish well, then live in the present with no restriction so that when you look in the past you’ll have no regrets.

Thirdly in leaving a Legacy of Finishing well . . .

#### 3. A FUTURE LIFE WITH NO REJECTION V.8

Our reward is “in store” which means to be laid up, and set away for safe-keeping. How do we get this crown of righteousness? Because born again believers have been declared righteous through faith in the Redeemer, they will never be rejected. Romans 8:1. The word “*appearing*” means to shine upon.

We forget that we’re living here in order to prepare for life there. We mistakenly think that this is the land of the living and that when we die; we go to the land of the dead. The opposite is actually true. This is the land of the dying. **When we leave this world, we go to the land of the living. AMEN! And AMEN!**

There are four universal principles to leave a Legacy of Finishing well life-style:

- \* **Live passionately**
- \* **Love completely**
- \* **Learn humbly**
- \* **Leave boldly**

I love what George Eliot says: “It’s never too late to be what you might have been.” Someone else has said: “Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start now and make a brand-new ending.” What will your epitaph be? Are you finishing well?