

Passing the Torch

“Faithful to the End”

2 Timothy 4:6-22

Introduction

Today is the final message of our series in 2 Timothy on “Passing the Torch.” Paul is writing from the damp, dark Mamertine Prison in Rome. He pens his final message to his young protégé Timothy to encourage him to continue in the work of the Lord after his death. Paul is very conscious that his journey of faith is coming to a close, and he is intent on passing the torch to the next generation.

1. The fourth chapter ends with the curtain closing on the life of one of the most significant 1st-century disciples, the Apostle _____.
2. Paul’s greatest concern was for the _____ disciples he would leave behind.
3. Above everything else, Paul wanted Timothy to come to see him in prison before he _____.
4. In verse 6, Paul writes, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have _____ the race, I have kept the faith.”
5. When Paul refers to his impending death, he probably sees the struggles and sufferings of his apostolic ministry as a _____ poured out in sacrificial service for the churches where he ministered.
6. The drink offering has a beautiful application for the celebration of the Lord’s _____.

7. Paul also uses the image of the drink offering to describe his _____ on behalf of the churches he started.
8. Paul viewed his life as a sacrifice poured out to honor and _____ God.
9. Throughout his ministry, Paul used athletes and races as a picture of being a _____ Christian to the very end of life.

I. A Crown of Righteousness

10. Paul says if you remain faithful to the end, you will receive a _____ of righteousness.
11. Before Paul became a Christian, he _____ those who followed Christ and even supervised the execution of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.
12. Hebrews 12:1 says, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto _____, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12: 1-2 NKJV)
13. Paul includes all of those who have remained _____ over the years and waited for Christ's appearance.

II. Faithful When Forsaken

14. Some who start out in faith don't remain faithful to the _____.
15. We all need companionship and _____.
16. Demas left because he chose the love of the world over devotion to _____.
17. Others left Paul out of _____ like Crescens and Titus. And still others like Tychicus, Paul had sent on a mission, probably to Ephesus so that Timothy could come to Rome.
18. In the end, Demas _____ his faith and forsook Paul.
19. Paul tells Timothy to go get John _____ and bring him with you.
20. John Mark is a testament to anyone who has previously failed but has turned things around and experienced _____.
21. At the end of his life all he owned was a _____ and a few books.

III. Faithful When Challenged

22. In verse 14, Paul warns Timothy to beware of those who personally attack you for your _____ in Jesus.
23. In 1 Timothy 1:20, Paul names Alexander as someone whose faith had suffered _____.
24. Paul tells Timothy, "You should also _____ of him."

25. Alexander may have been a witness against Paul at his _____.
26. When we stand before God in the final judgment, it is better to be judged according to your faith in Jesus Christ, rather than your _____!
27. At one point, Paul was all _____, but he says Jesus stood by him and helped him serve God faithfully during his first defense.
28. Paul demonstrates convincing evidence his life was a great work of _____ and spiritual maturity.
29. Even in death, Paul demonstrates remarkable optimism and _____.

Conclusion

In his parting words, Paul's heart reaches out to the people he knew. He was still thinking of others rather than himself. Paul knew the nature of Jesus was to be an others-centered person.

We find the last words from Paul's pen in verse 22, "The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen."

Answers:

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| 1. Paul | 11. Opposed | 21. Cloak |
| 2. Devoted | 12. Jesus | 22. Faith |
| 3. Died | 13. Faithful | 23. Shipwreck |
| 4. Finished | 14. End | 24. Beware |
| 5. Libation | 15. Encouragement | 25. Arrest |
| 6. Supper | 16. Christ | 26. Works |
| 7. Sacrifice | 17. Necessity | 27. Alone |
| 8. Glorify | 18. Abandoned | 28. Grace |
| 9. Faithful | 19. Mark | 29. joy |
| 10. Crown | 20. Restoration | |