

(1) "I have fought a good fight" (verse 7; I Cor. 15:32). He fought a spiritual battle throughout his Christian life, and won. He never surrendered to the enemies of righteousness (Eph. 6:12).

(2) "I have finished my course." He had a course to travel, and he did not detour the hard places; neither did he look back (Luke 9:61,62). He finished his course with his eyes fixed on Christ (Phil. 1:6).

(3) "I have kept the faith." He preached all the "counsel of God" --never betraying any of the great doctrines (Acts 20:24-31). The Apostle looked ahead to the "Judgment seat of Christ" where the "Crown of righteousness" will be given to those who "love His appearing." How important it is for the believer to look with the heart of love for the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that he may receive the "crown of righteousness." <sup>1</sup>

There are many of us who, at times, would love to give up, and run from the battles that following Christ brings; but as we look at the example of Paul, and better still, the example of Christ going to the Cross, we realize it is only for a time here, but our life doesn't stop here: we look for the prize of eternal life with Christ in a place where we never have to endure hardships or trials again. It is not just the rewards we should be looking forward too, but being with our Savior forever and ever. Amen.

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1. The Open Bible, notes, p. 1137.

## FOURTH STUDY

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### PAUL'S FINAL CHARGE

#### PREACH THE WORD (II Timothy 4:1-5)

Paul writes this last charge to Timothy with the realization that this will be his last letter (making this the last Epistle of Paul) to his "beloved son." He begins with these words, *I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ*: making a distinction by charging him before two separate persons, proving that God and the Lord Jesus Christ are two separate Persons (II Timothy 4:1).

**The Lord Jesus Christ shall judge the quick (alive) and the dead.** II Timothy 4:1. Jesus shall judge the alive and the resurrected dead at His appearing and His kingdom, which proves there will be more than one judgment.

After the thrones and dominions of earth have passed from the scene, and all the sovereignties of the nations are no more, God will still reign. Before Christ Jesus, whom He hath appointed the Judge of all the earth, all men shall render their account. No one among the myriads (ten thousands) of earth will find that day more solemn than those who have served as Christ's ministers. <sup>1</sup>

1. Name the 5 charges given to Timothy in II Timothy 4:2. (1) \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Vol. 9, p. 653.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Paul predict in, II Timothy 4:3,4, about the last day characteristics that are already being fulfilled today? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. In II Timothy 4:5, Paul gives Timothy 4 more charges. Name them.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

### PAUL TESTIFIES OF HIS APPROACHING DEATH (II Timothy 4:6-8)

Paul probably wrote I and II Timothy and Titus during the period between his acquittal and a second Roman imprisonment. According to church tradition Paul was arrested again and subjected to harsher treatment. He was condemned by the

Emperor Nero and beheaded with the sword at the third milestone in the Ostian Way, at a place called Aquae Salviae and lies buried on the site covered by the basilica of Saint Paul outside the walls. His execution probably occurred in A.D. 67. <sup>1</sup>

1. In Paul's testimony of his approaching death is 5fold. Mark the correct statement (s) from II Timothy 4:6-8.

(1) I am now ready to be offered.

(2) The time of my departure is at hand.

(3) I have fought a good fight.

(4) I scored blow for blow.

(5) Payback is coming.

(6) I have finished my course.

(7) I have kept the faith.

The "crown of righteousness" is a reward, and it is not to be confused with the "righteousness of God" which the believer receives when he becomes a Christian; for all that time, the believer is "made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21).

This saving righteousness is a gift to be accepted by the lost. The "crown of righteousness" is a reward to be earned by the saved. If the believer looks for, and loves the doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ, it will effect his whole life. Look at the dynamic impact this truth had on the life of the Apostle Paul. He could say:

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1. Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, pp. 1259,1260.