



river west church

Staying in the Race

2 Timothy 4:6-22

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Here's the bottom line. Stay in the race. Stay in the fight. It might be a colossal struggle for you. But don't quit. The outcome far outweighs the struggle. You are not the first person to face the challenge of Christian faith, life, and ministry, and you won't be the last. Stay at it!

As Paul's letter to Timothy draws to a close, he pours out his heart one last time. He speaks of his death. He says that the time of his "departure" has arrived. Paul says touching and powerful things to Timothy:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..."

These are deep and heartfelt final words. But Paul doesn't say these things to boast. Paul isn't putting a spin on his legacy. He penned these words with one thought in mind: his love for Timothy. Once again, Paul is leading Timothy by way of example. This is the way to finish strong. Paul is revealing his deepest convictions, the perspectives that sustained him through all the challenges and battles of life. Paul knows that what was true for him will also be true for Timothy. It's true for US as well!

But what does Paul reveal in these final words? What's his perspective? How do you stay strong; stay in the race? What are the core convictions that will sustain us?

As we look at the final verses of 2 Timothy we answer these questions by focusing on three key themes that Paul illuminates in his final words. Each one is powerful. Each one shows us something we need to fight the good fight, stay in the race, and keep the faith. As you listen to the message, take some notes. What is God saying to YOU? Take some time for prayer. Ask God to show you how YOU need to respond today.

God's Mission – Step into your role

God's Strength – Trust him no matter what

God's Team – You cannot do this alone

