

The Time Of Departure

2 Tim 4:6-8

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Introduction:

- A. Our society is a mobile society. It seems we are always on the move and thus our awareness of our departure time is of great importance. Public transportation is controlled by their scheduled departure times, which allows us to pick departure times for our trips, etc. Usually as the departure time approaches, we start worrying about such things as, “Did I pack what I need?” Does my GPS work? Do I have my identification?”
- B. Many of the factors used in determining the time of departure are controllable, some are not. Sometimes we find the departure times must even be changed or canceled.
- B. Such is not the case with our life. We all have a departure time. However, when it will be has not been determined yet, but we can be sure that when it is set, there are NO cancellations (Heb. 9:27).
- C. When the time comes, we often reflect upon our preparedness. Let us look at Paul's reflections at this moment in his life.

I. He Fought The Good Fight - v. 7

A. Emphasis on the “grand/noble” fight

- 1. Allusion to the contests at the Grecian games - 2 Tim. 4:7b-8
- 2. To Timothy for eternal life- 1 Tim. 6:12

1 Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- a. Called for this - 2 Thess. 2:14

2 Thessalonians 2:14 - It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- b. Confession of the good confession - Rom. 10:9-10

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

- 1) Always considering Jesus - Heb. 3:1

Hebrews 3:1 - Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

- 2) Holding fast - Heb. 4:14; 10:23

Hebrews 4:14 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

- 3) Continuing praise - Heb. 13:15

Hebrews 13:15 - Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

B. Against the adversary

1. Higher powers, world-wide rulers of darkness - Eph. 6:12

Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2. By using the Judaizing teachers - Acts 14:19

Acts 14:19 - But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

3. Pagan vices - Acts 16:16 ff

Acts 16:16-18 - It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

4. Persecution beyond comprehension - 2 Cor. 11:24-27

2 Corinthians 11:24-27 - Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

II. *He Finished The Course* - v. 7

- A. He fully accomplished the mission given - Acts 26:16-18

Acts 26:16-18 - 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

1. He kept his eyes riveted on the goal - Phil. 3:13-14

Philippians 3:13-14 - Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. Requires unselfishness - Acts 20:24

Acts 20:24 - "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

- B. Still holding future benefits - Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Th. 2:19

Philippians 2:14-16 - Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 - For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

C. He did what was needed - 1 Cor. 9:20-23

1 Corinthians 9:20-23 - To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

III. *He Kept The Faith* - v. 7

A. He guarded it tenaciously against perversion - Gal. 1:6-7

Galatians 1:6-7 - I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

B. The faith in this case means the true doctrine

1. The one and only course to follow - Eph. 4:4

Ephesians 4:4 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

2. Must "contend earnestly" - Jude 3

Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

C. Preached by Paul - Gal. 1:23, 11; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4

Galatians 1:23 - but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."

Galatians 1:11 - For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1. Believe / confess Jesus - Rom. 10:9-10

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

2. Repent - Acts 17:30

Acts 17:30 - "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,

3. Baptism - Gal. 3:23-27

Galatians 3:23-27 - But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

IV. *The Reward*

A. The reserved crown - v. 8

1. Laid up means reserved; appointed (Heb. 9:27) [certainty]

2. The victor's wreath to the "righteous"

B. Given by the Lord = the "umpire" who makes no mistakes

1. Reserved for all who have loved His appearing - cf. 4:1

2. Psa. 7:9-11

Psalms 7:9-11 - O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds. My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.