

## A DYING CHRISTIAN'S TESTIMONY

II Timothy 4:4-8

- I. Intro.
  - A. this joyful testimony was written by Paul the prisoner, in a dungeon at Rome
  - B. he was waiting for the time of his execution [ready to be offered]
- II. a victorious past
  - A. as a soldier, he "fought a good fight" – 7
    - 1. against all the principalities and powers of evil, whether seen or unseen
    - 2. against sin, the world, the flesh, and the devil
    - 3. there was a battle to be fought, and he fought it
    - 4. he was a soldier in the Lord's army
      - a. he endured hardness – II Timothy 2:3, 3:10-11
      - b. he didn't get overly involved in the things of this life – II Timothy 2:4
      - c. he never gave up
      - d. he stood in the battle, even when he was physically unable – Ephesians 6:13-14
  - B. as a racer, "finished my course" – 7
    - 1. his course was specially marked out for him – Act 9:15-16
    - 2. the course that God had laid out for him had many obstacles
    - 3. Paul was a disciplined runner, who strived to win the prize – I Corinthians 9:24-27
    - 4. he attempted to live the Christian life in such a way so that he would not be disqualified [castaway]
    - 5. as an athlete he ran with patience – Hebrews 12:1-2
  - C. as a believer, he "kept the faith"
    - 1. he never strayed from the great truths and doctrines of God's Word
    - 2. he guarded the truth revealed to him, and preached the gospel of grace
    - 3. life had been given to him from God, and he was a good steward
- III. a peaceful present [I am now ready ... the time of my departure is at hand] – 6
  - A. death had no sting or terrors to him
    - 1. Christ had taken the sting out of death for him
    - 2. to be absent from the body is to be present with Christ, which is far better
    - 3. death is only the doorway to heaven and eternal life

- B. he had no regrets of a wasted life
  - C. he was at peace because of his confidence in Christ
- IV. a joyful future – 8
- A. he had hope and a bright outlook for the future
  - B. the crown of righteousness is for those that have lived a God-pleasing life
  - C. this reward is not just for Paul, but all who love His appearing
  - D. loving his appearing implies an inspiring influence in our life
  - E. to love His appearing means that we will have to love Him
  - F. the second coming of Christ is not a vain imagination, but a holy incentive to live right – I John 3:1-3
  - G. the second coming of Christ is the believers expectation that enables us to endure
  - H. "Behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" - Revelation 22:12