

- His _____ on the _____ (1 Cor. 9:15-23; Phil. 1:12-18; Rom. 15:20).
- His _____ for the _____ (Colossians 1:29-2:2; 4:12).
- His _____ in _____ (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:3-5).
- His _____ in _____ (Phil. 1:30; 1 Thess. 2:2; Acts 17; 2 Tim. 2:3; Rom.15:30; 1 Cor. 15:32).

2. _____ the _____.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race..."

TRUTHS ABOUT THE RACE

- We need to _____ to the end.

HEBREWS 12:1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- We must watch out for _____, _____ and _____.

GALATIANS 5:7: "You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?"

HEBREWS 12:1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

- We need strict _____.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

- We are rewarded for _____, not starting (1 Cor. 9:25).

- We are not running in _____ (Gal. 2:2; Phil. 2:14-16).

PHILIPPIANS 2:16: "—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."

3. _____ the _____.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

2 TIMOTHY 1:14: "Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."

4. _____ the _____.

2 TIMOTHY 4:8: "Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing."

“A Greek or Roman athlete who was a winner was rewarded by the crowds and usually got a laurel wreath or a garland of oak leaves. The word for “crown” is *stephanos*—the victor’s crown; we get our name Stephen from this word. (The kingly crown is *diadema*, from which we get “*diadem*.”) However, Paul would not be given a fading crown of leaves; his would be a crown of righteousness that would never fade.” Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989), 2 Ti 4:5.

FINAL THOUGHTS

“Paul drew upon athletic imagery to refer to his past faithful service to Christ (2 Tim. 4:7). Like a wrestler, he had agonized through the fight. “Like a runner, he had finished the foot race. Paul kept the faith by defending it from attacks and by observing its obligations. At the end of the race course there awaited a laurel wreath that would be placed on the head of the victor (4:8). It was a perishable wreath (1 Cor. 9:25), but Paul’s reward was an imperishable crown.”

Robert B. Hughes and J. Carl Laney, Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary, The Tyndale reference library (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), 647.

How will you spend the rest of your life?

ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHRISTIAN

Today’s Message: “JUST ONE SHOT”

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 07.26.09

INTRODUCTION:

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8: “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.”

“And now he casts a swift glance over his past life, and sums it up in three sentences, using the figures of a Greek wrestler, a Greek runner, and a Roman soldier.” Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), 2 Ti 4:7.

1. _____ the good _____.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7: “I have fought the good fight.”

Meaning of Verb: “To be a combatant in the public games; to contend, fight, strive earnestly.” William D. Mounce, *The Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, 52.

Meaning of Noun: “Place of contest, race-course, stadium; a contest, strife, contention; peril, toil.” William D. Mounce, *The Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, 52.

HOW DID PAUL FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT?

- His _____ of the _____ (Phil. 1:16, 28-30; 4:3; Acts 18:4; 2 Cor. 10:1-5).