



2 Timothy 4:6-8

A LIFE WELL LIVED

I am already being poured out as a drink offering (2 Tim. 4:6). “I am ready to be offered.” It is a transaction of will, not of sentiment. Tell God you are ready to be offered; then let the consequences be what they may, there is no strand

of complaint now, no matter what God chooses. God puts you through the crisis in private, no one person can help another. Externally the life may be the same; the difference is in will. Go through the crisis in will, then when it comes externally there will be no thought of the cost... The altar means fire—burning and purification for one purpose only, the destruction of every affinity that God has not started and of every attachment that is not an attachment in God. You do not destroy it, God does... After this way of fire, there is nothing that oppresses or depresses. When the crisis arises, you realize that things cannot touch you as they used to do. What is your way of fire? Tell God you are ready to be offered, and God will prove Himself to be all you ever dreamed He would be. —Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, February 6

In 2 Timothy, Paul exhorts Timothy with over thirty imperatives. Paul does not want Timothy to give in to his fear but instead to be a **good soldier** (the spirit of power), a **faithful servant** (the spirit of love), and a **wise student** of the Word (the spirit of a sound mind).

Why are Paul’s exhortations so urgent? Because he realizes that his execution at the hands of the Roman Empire is certain and probably soon. Paul’s race is ending and he is passing the baton to Timothy.

THE REALITY OF DEATH (4:6)

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

- Paul sees his life as an _____ to God.

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (Philippians 2:17)

- The drink offering was offered with all sacrifices (Num. 15:1-10).
- It is a picture of rest and victory. It was to be offered “in the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving you” (Num. 15:2).
- It is an act of worship and dedication (Gen. 35:9-15).
- It reflects the choice of giving one’s life fully and completely to the Lord instead of using it for one’s own temporal pleasure.

- Paul sees his death as a _____ to greater life.

- His death was like the untying of the ox from the plow.
- His death was like the taking up of the stakes of the tent.
- His death was like the unmooring of a ship so that it can set sail.

After the Jewish priest offered the lamb, ram, or bull, he poured wine beside the altar. This was the last act in the sacrificial ceremony all of which symbolized the dedication of the believer to God in worship.

—Thomas Constable

Drinking wine is a sabbatical activity; it is a sign and a means of rest and celebration. Thus, the libation is a sabbatical offering.

—Peter Leithart

Departure. Greek, *analsis*, “a breaking up, loosening, releasing.”

You have been used to take notice of the sayings of dying men. This is mine: that a life spent in the service of God, and communion with Him, is the most comfort-filled and pleasant life that anyone can live in this world.

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go.

—Dwight L. Moody (1837-99)

Only one life, it will soon be past. Only what is done for Christ will last.

—C. T. Studd (1860-1931)

THE REFLECTION ON LIFE (4:7)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- Life is a _____.
- Life is a _____.
- Life is a _____.

We are not called to be successful but to be faithful—faithful to the fight, faithful to the faith, faithful to the finish. (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

THE REWARD OF ETERNITY (4:8)

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- We will receive _____ for our faithfulness.

THE FIVE CROWNS FOR BELIEVERS		
Righteousness	2 Tim. 4:8	For those who have loved His appearing
Life	Jam. 1:12	For those who endure trials
Imperishable	1 Cor. 9:26	For those who run the race well
Rejoicing	1 Th. 2:19	For those who win others to Christ
Glory	1 Pet. 5:4	For those who serve well in the church

- We will see our Savior face-to-face and experience the greatest reward—eternal life in His kingdom, in perfect relationship with Him, with others, and with all creation (Isaiah 11-12; Rev. 20-22).

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

—John Watson (1850-1907)

Life looks to this man, in his retrospect, as mainly a field of struggle, effort, and fidelity. This world is not to be for us an enchanted garden of delights, any more than it should appear a dreary desert of disappointment and woe. But it should be to us mainly a gymnasium and exercising ground... Such a view of life makes it radiant and fair while it lasts, and makes the heart calm when the hour comes to leave it all behind.

—Alexander MacLaren

The ancient Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece every four years from 776 BC to 393 AD to honor the god Zeus. They included races, wrestling, and the pentathlon. Winners received victory wreaths cut from the sacred olive tree of Zeus. The modern Olympics started in 1896. (Britannica)

Fight. Grk, *agon*, “a place of assembly, especially the place where the Greeks assembled for the Olympic games; a contest of athletes.”

Race. Greek, *dromos*, “the course that one follows in a race.”

Crown. Greek, *stephanos*, “the victor’s crown, the symbol of triumph in the games or some such contest; a reward or prize.” This Greek word is distinguished from *diadem*, the sovereign crown.

They were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.

—C. S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*