

Portraits of Faithful Christ-Followers

Part 5: The Athlete, (cont'd)

II Timothy 2:5

Big Truth of this Series: The apostle Paul encourages and warns Timothy and all believers to follow, entrust, and be always ready to proclaim God's Word with confidence and joy as days of difficulty lie ahead.

Big Truth of Today's Message: Being strengthened by the grace in Christ, every disciple is like an elite athlete, straining forward to complete his God-given race and the ministry of giving witness to the gospel of the grace of God.

v. 5 – *“An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”*

Acts 20:24 (NKJV)

“But none of these things move me...”

“...nor do I count my life dear to myself...”

“...so that I might finish my race with joy...”

“...and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

July 14, 2024

Call To Worship

Colossians 1:15-20

Pastoral Prayer

Rocky Hails

Ministries Pastor

Worship

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

The Lord Is My Salvation

Scripture Reading

Psalms 107:1-3

Songs Of Worship

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

Be Thou My Vision

Message

Marty Brown

Teaching Pastor

Song Of Response

Be Thou My Vision

“Faithfulness is better than life! Better than leisure life in retirement, better than leisure life in the middle years, and better than leisure life in youth. Do you want to hear some of the definitions of ‘retire’ from my Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary? ‘To withdraw from action or danger.’ ‘To fall back.’ ‘To go to bed.’ ‘To march away from the enemy.’ It may be the American dream, but it has no foundation in Scripture at all... You may call it retirement; but I call it a change of station. A new front in the warfare. A new assignment from the King... There is work to be done for the cause of Jesus Christ, and I will do what I can while I have breath.”
~ John Piper

“It is a most lamentable thing to see how most people spend their time and their energy for trifles, while God is cast aside. He who is all seems to them as nothing, and that which is nothing seems to them as good as all. It is lamentable indeed, knowing that God has set mankind in such a race where heaven or hell is their certain end, that they should sit down and loiter, or run after the childish toys of the world, forgetting the prize they should run for.”
~ Richard Baxter

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased.”
~ C. S. Lewis

“Living the Christian life is often described in the Bible with words and phrases such as: ‘warfare,’ ‘fight,’ ‘run the race,’ ‘yield not,’ ‘work out,’ and ‘press on.’ The Christian life is a disciplined life of constant vigilance, of taking up the cross daily. There are no short-cuts. The spiritual conflict will continue until we step on the other side of glory.”
~ John Napier