

- **In order to finish well join Paul in understanding:**

The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength 2 Timothy 4:16,17

**John Stott** in his commentary on 2 Timothy:

*“This is Paul’s Garden of Gethsemane moment, this is Paul’s march to Calvary.”*

What was the one thing Paul needed at the end of his life so that he could finish well?

3. Friendship with God.

But in the midst of Paul’s despair who showed up for him?

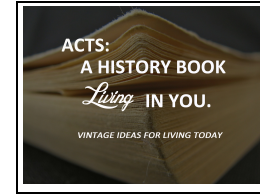
17 But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength 2 Timothy 4:17

But when everyone deserted Jesus, what did he say?

My God, my God while have you forsaken me?

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as **friends**.

Revelation 3:20



Sierra Community Church August 17th, 2014-  
Dan Wilvers Part 28

Acts 28:30,31 2 Timothy 4:6-22  
**Like Paul, Will You Finish Well?**

For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, 31 boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him. Acts 28:30,31

**What did happen to Paul?** *The answer is*-He finished well.

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. 8 And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

- **In order to finish well join Paul in understanding:**

1. The Christian Life is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

You can boil life down to one of two operating systems.

1. *Your life and your resources to serve me.*
2. *My life, my resources given to serve you.*

- **In order to finish well join Paul in understanding:**

## 2. That Death is \_\_\_\_\_

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race.  
2 Timothy 4:6,7

I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. 21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

Philippians 1:20,21

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.  
1 Thessalonians 4:13

## The Story of Jesus at Lazarus' tomb:

But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death. 18 Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom.  
2 Timothy 4:17,18

## Does Paul think he's now somehow invincible? No.

The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. ...and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom.

## **Here's what he's saying:**

God will always rescue me.

Sometimes from suffering.

Sometimes through suffering.

(see Hebrews Chapter 11:32-39)

Look at Paul's poise at the end of his life in the face of death.

Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, *but the Lord will judge him* for what he has done. ... 16 The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. *May it not be counted against them.*  
2 Timothy 4:14-16

Paul's famous verse regarding our poise in the face of trials:

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.  
Romans 8:28

Acts 28:31 The last verse in the Book of Acts.

vs.31 ...boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Why Luke doesn't tell us what happens to Paul in the end?*  
**Because he's not the story, the gospel is the story.**