

ONE OF THE GREATEST TESTIMONIES IN ALL AGES

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

I. MARKS OF THE FAITHFUL PREACHER (4:1-5)

II. THE APOSTLE'S PERSONAL EPITAPH (4:6-8)

A. Paul's personal testimony of his PRESENT (4:6)

1. The present tense of the phrase, "*I am already being poured out*" indicates that the process had already begun; he knew he was going to shed his blood in martyrdom.
 - a. The "*drink offering*" was the _____ preformed in a blood sacrifice. (Num. 15:1-10; cf. Num. 28:4-7; Phil. 2:17)
 - b. In v. 6 there almost seems to be a conscious _____ by Paul to jog Timothy's _____ to recall the words of the letter to the Philippians (1:28; 2:17), of which Timothy was probably his secretary.
 - c. The apostle did not view his life as an execution by the emperor as much as he did a _____ to his Savior, just as he had done with his whole life. (Rom. 12:1-2)
2. The time of his "*departure was at hand*," what was once a serious possibility back when he wrote Philippians, was now an absolute certainty.
 - a. The word "*departure*" was used of hoisting the anchor of a ship that was about to _____.
 - b. Paul viewed his death as another journey that he was about to embark on, which is ample proof of how _____ he _____ death

B. Paul's personal testimony of his PAST (4:7)

1. The apostle turned to view the past, and he described it with two concise statements taken from the athletic games and one as a faithful steward...

- a. *“I have fought the good fight”* (perf/indic)
Paul described his never ending strenuous battle against the forces of _____, against false teachers and their heresies, against the nagging _____ to _____.

- b. *“I have finished the race”* (perf/indic)
With his eyes constantly fixed on the goal, he willfully put all of his energy into finishing his race _____, and to win the _____. (Acts 20:24; Philip. 3:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:5)

- c. *“I have kept the faith”* (perf/indic)
He dropped the metaphors and stated the fact; he had guarded the _____ of the gospel against perversion, and it had _____ him dearly.

C. Paul’s personal testimony of his FUTURE (4:8)

1. As the apostle turned his eyes towards the future, he most definitely did _____ view death as the bitter end, but rather he looked forward to it as a _____. (4:8a)

2. With his *“fight”* and *“race”* now completed, he was seeking the “_____ of _____.” (4:8b)

3. This victory prize would be handed out _____ at death, but at the Bema Seat by none other than the *“righteous Judge”* _____ the _____. (2 Tim. 4:1, 8c)

4. Thankfully we are informed that this crown is not exclusive to Paul, but it is available to _____ who look forward to the Rapture of the Church (4:8d)

* How can you apply this marvelous truth?