



Faithful Service

By Shannon Ford on August 26, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Timothy 4

2 Timothy 4:6-8 leaves me speechless, humbled and greatly desiring the same for my life. *"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 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."*

I cannot imagine how wonderful it would be to end life with this kind of confidence. Not just a confidence that we have our fire insurance as we head into our last days, but a confidence of readiness to stand before the Judge knowing we have done the ministry He gave us to do. He will not ask how much money we made, how much we provided for our children, if we got any awards, what we accomplished or what activity we were good at. He will judge whether we fulfilled our ministry faithfully.

Paul was a drink offering. Since the day he met the Lord, he began serving Him sacrificially. He gave up his rights and desires. He gave up his agenda and goals. He had one Master, the Lord Jesus. He was now ready to complete the sacrifice by laying down his life. He had fought the fight and run the race. There was no disqualification. He had run the whole race. He never quit. He had been a faithful steward to all that was given him. Paul was not always popular, and his life was certainly not easy, but he was always faithful. He could look back without regrets as He prepared to step before the King of kings and Lord of lords. Think about that. It is not just saying we have no regrets. It is being able to wait in line with those waiting to go into the throne room of the living God for their judgment and say, "No regrets." Paul was faithful with what He called him to do and with what He gave him to use. Wow, wow, wow! Now that is a picture of a hero. That is someone I want to be like.

The call of service and ministry has been given to all followers of Jesus Christ. Will you be found faithful? Will you go the distance? Will you make the sacrifice? It is so worth it!

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to live the rest of my days on this earth fully surrendered to You. Remind me daily that life is short, and that You control the length of my life. Please help me keep the faith and remain steadfast, fighting hard against my flesh and this world and continuing to the end. In Jesus' name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Titus 1

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