**2 Timothy**
***Last Words, Lasting Words***
**Timothy 4:6-8**

## Home Group Questions

- Our text is 2 Timothy 4:6-8, but for context read 2 Timothy 4:1-8. What did you learn? What challenged you?

- Does this text seem morbid or victorious to you? I think most believers would like this sort of testimony at the end of their lives, but the cost is steep. What can you do to prepare to be able to say what Paul said near the end of your days on earth?

- Being poured out as a drink offering - unfamiliar language to our culture, but not to first century men and women. Paul was referencing a Hebrew conception rather than a pagan practice. See Leviticus 23 and 2 Samuel 13 in the Scripture section below. David pouring out water is a good example of how we can apply this verse. What would be personal examples of believers practicing such sacrificial living in our day?

- Rewards for believers. This is more difficult than you might think. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 is often understood to be describing the Judgment Seat of Christ where believers will either receive rewards for their good works or the absence of works that were pleasing to the Lord will go up in smoke when the fire of God's judgment tests the value of what we have done. In context, though, this seems to be about how church leaders have protected the integrity of the gospel – a huge emphasis in 1 and 2 Timothy. Will all believers hear "Well done, good and faithful servant?" I think so. Will believers have regrets? I think not, but again, Scripture is not as clear as we would like. Either way, there is plenty of motivation to live for Jesus. A Gospel Coalition article about rewards is linked below. You will notice how non-committal John Starke is on the issue.

- I know – there was no question in the previous point. Whether the crowns promised in the NT are for all believers or given to those who "earn" these rewards (see the problem with this language?), these verses should be strong motivation for believers. Read and discuss the five crowns listed below in the Scripture section. A link is provided for an article about the crowns.

- Mike Calhoun says, "Decisions do not change your life – they only change your direction. Discipline changes your life." What decisions do you need to make in your life? Could you make this decision as a group? Share suggestions to help bring discipline to your (both you and y'all's) life?

## Sermon Notes

Written in 1979 by Keith Green – *Pledge My Head to Heaven* is worth a listen. Bob Dylan is on harmonica: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU66mVGE4NE

What about rewards for Christians? https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/you-asked-what-are-the-rewards-in-heaven-jesus-talks-about/

Five crowns for believers: https://www.gotquestions.org/heavenly-crowns.html

**Maranatha** Aramean phrase meaning "Our Lord, come!"

## Application from the Sermon

1. Live sacrificially before the Lord, returning the gift of your life to him for his use at his pleasure
2. Commit this day to the Lord and ask him to give you endurance so that you will look back on your life with joy
3. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

## Scripture Associated with the Message

**Leviticus 13:12** And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the Lord. 13 And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the Lord with a pleasing aroma, and **the drink offering with it shall be of wine,** a fourth of a hin.

**2 Samuel 23:13** And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 14 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. 15 And David said longingly, "Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!" 16 **Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought**

**it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the Lord 17 and said, "Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.**

**1 Corinthians 3:10** According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

**Matthew 25:23** His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

**Revelation 20:20** He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

**Matthew 5:45** For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Five Crowns for Believers

**<u>The imperishable crown for those who live faithfully</u>**

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. **They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable**. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

**The crown of rejoicing – for evangelism**

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

**The crown of righteousness – for anticipating Jesus' return**

**2 Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing.

**The crown of glory for faithful spiritual leaders**

**1 Peter 5:1** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. **4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.** 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**The crown of life for endurance in suffering**

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**Revelation 2:10** Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.