

At The End Of My Life

I had the opportunity to attend a funeral yesterday. I say "opportunity" because Solomon said it is good to visit the "house of mourning" (Ecclesiastes 7:2). I have no idea when the end of my life will come. I also have no idea when the Lord will come. Whether I go by way of the "undertaker" or the "uppertaker," I want to be able to say what Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Readiness: "*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand*" (vs. 6). Paul knew his time was short and he was ready to go. We do not know if our time is short or not, but we should always be ready. We should be ready because we have been born again (John 3:3, 5), because we are anxiously awaiting His coming (Titus 2:11-14), and because we are abiding in Him (John 15:1-7).

Review: "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" (vs. 7). If we can review our lives and see this pattern of faithfulness, we should be happy. We will not live perfect lives, but we can live faithful lives. If we have not lived faithful lives, we can start now.

Reward: "*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*" (vs. 8). Because Paul loved the appearing of his Lord, he lived for his Lord (1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10)! Will you be ready at the end of your life? If not, know that we love you and want to study with you.

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