

6. No matter what we do to try to prevent it, our *earthly* bodies will quickly fade away and perish. James likens life to a “vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes” (James 4:14). How can we use our time in this life to prepare for the eternity that lies ahead of us? (Think both in terms of your own future eternity and the future eternity of others in your life.)

7. Take time as a group to consider the span of eternity compared the brief drop of time we have now (Consider meditating on a passage such as Psalm 103:15-18). Praise God for the crown that awaits those who trust Christ, and pray that He will equip and motivate each one of us to make the most of every opportunity.

Painting a Final Self-Portrait
2 Timothy 4:6-8
November 9, 2014

What will I look like at the end of the race?

1. Cultivating a sense of urgency (v. 6)

✧ Already being poured out... (Phil. 2:14-18)

✧ Time to depart...

2. Practicing a regular self-examination (v. 7)

✧ Am I fighting well? (1 Cor. 9:24-27)

✧ Am I preparing to finish well? (John 19:28, 30)

✧ Am I “keeping the faith”?

3. Looking toward the future hope (v. 8)

✧ The crown... (1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 3:11)

✧ Are we a people who “love His appearing”?
(Heb. 9:28)

3. Look at all three of Paul’s “I have” statements in verse 7. How are these statements practically demonstrated in a person’s life? What would be the evidence that they are, in fact, being accomplished? (Use supporting Scriptures wherever possible.)

4. According to Paul, what is truly worth pursuing in life? What is the goal? Consider, as time permits, how this is supported by others: Jesus (Matthew 6:19-21, 33), Solomon (Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 12:13-14), Peter (1 Peter 1:3-9), and other examples that may come to mind.

Message-Based Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever put thought to how you’ll look back on your life when it comes to its end? If so, what kinds of thoughts have come to mind?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Paul’s self-assessment in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (the text from this week’s message). What stands out to you about the content of his assessment? As he looks back over his life, what was most important to him?

Making Application from the Message to Life:

5. Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 would have challenged Timothy, a much younger man than Paul, to consider the trajectory that his own life and ministry was on. How can our decisions today affect the way that we’ll look back on our lives at the end?