

MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL – Sunday 14th May 2017

9: THE POTENTIAL OF FINISHING WELL

2 Timothy 4.1-22

As we bring the series to a close – perhaps share something from the series that has remained with you as an encouragement / challenge.

The message titles were: **Maximising the potential** of a sincere faith... your gifting; the gospel; grace giving; whole hearted service; hope; Christlikeness and in being an example.

Paul was being kept in the Roman **Mamertine Prison** – why not do a google search for an idea as to what it might have been like for him to be in this prison.

Paul wanted to finish well – he expresses this in Acts 20.24.

Alan in his message gave a number of pointers to finishing well.

1. **FINISHING WELL – for one day you will stand before Jesus v.1**

Paul lived in the light that one day Jesus will return and the Kingdom will come into its fullness. The challenge of Christ's return is that it ushers in the final and ultimate judgement of the living (those alive when Jesus returns) and the dead (those raised from the grave)!

In what way should this truth stir us into finishing well?

Matthew 25 records several parables of Jesus – ten virgins, talents and sheep & goats all of which speak of Christ's coming and the judgement.

What happens in the now of our present living impacts our future!

2. **FINISHING WELL - for there is a present calling to fulfil v.2**

There is a compelling sense of urgency that Paul echoes in a series of commands that applies not just to Timothy as a preacher, but to us all.

What would you find easy? What would cause you to struggle?

Why do you think there is such intensity in Paul's final words?

What are the areas that Paul covers with regard to fulfilling the sense of God's calling upon our lives?

Paul talks about the need to *'correct and rebuke!'* Are we prepared to do this and if we do, how do we go about it?

3. **FINISHING WELL - be prepared for significant challenges along the way v.3-8**

Paul indicates the challenges of facing false teachers and how people will be led astray. But, in v.5 there is the call for Timothy to lead and endure the hardships that will come. Think about those who opposed the truth like **Demas** (v.10) *"who deserted me"* and **Alexander** (v.14) *"who ...strongly opposed our message."*

How do you cope with the disappointment that comes when relationships are broken? Timothy though v.5, is to *do the work of an evangelist and discharge the duties of your ministry.*

4. FINISHING WELL – learning from the great example of Paul v.6-8

Paul shares his present experience where he knows his departure is imminent (v.6). There comes in v.7 a powerful verse: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

There are many who begin well but do not finish well.

The future anticipation is of an ultimate reward in the *crown of righteousness* (v.8) .

How does this make you feel? What does the crown of righteousness represent?

How should this truth motivate us to be those *longing for his appearing?*

We are never promised that the journey would be easy, but we are promised a safe arrival!

5. FINISHING WELL – keep constantly nourished v.9-16

God ministers his presence through people – this is where the fellowship of believers is so important.

Paul has **emotional** needs – v.9 *come to me quickly*; v.21 *Do you best to get here before winter.*

Paul has **physical** needs – v.13 *bring my cloak* to keep him warm in the cold damp prison.

Paul has **spiritual** needs v.13 *my scrolls and especially the parchments*

6. FINISHING WELL v.17-22 - Jesus will be with you and his blessing will be upon you

'The Lord stood at my side.' What did this mean for Paul and what can it mean for us today?

v.22 *'The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.'*

For your own notes