

God's Will For Us to Finish

Thy Will Be Done - Week 12 (8-16-23)

2 Timothy 4:6-8

I. God Our Coach

A. Our ability to finish well is determined by how well you plan/prepare and the way that you go about running the race.

1. John 14:15-19

a) Any real athlete will have someone kind of personal trainer to help them hone their skills.

(1) A trainer knows more, and has the wisdom to give you the next steps necessary to reach the end goal.

(2) They can see things about you and your performance that you cannot see on your own.

b) Any real craftsman has been taught. Many lessons are learned through “the school of hard knocks” but the best way to develop your skills as a craftsman is to learn by experience under the guidance of a master.

B. It's up to us to hone our skills, but in order to finish well we must be able to hear our coach/instructor and be willing to submit to their instruction.

1. John 10:25-29 - “My sheep hear my voice...”

a) Learning how to hear God and speak His language (the language of faith) is crucial to obtaining the prize.

2. Nehemiah

a) 1:4-11

(1) A heart in tune with the desires of God.

(2) Humbly recognizes God as his authority

b) 2:5 - Poised to receive wisdom and instruction at any moment.

c) 2:19-20 Always recognized God as His source when challenges arose.

(1) Nehemiah was confident in what he was doing in spite of accusations. He didn't take any of it personally but kept his sights on what God had put on his heart to do.

II. God Our Prize

A. Gen. 14:21-15:1

B. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

1. Fighting a good fight and finishing the race is keeping the faith until the end.

a) This is accomplished by loving the Lord's appearing.

b) Vs 8 AMP - “...the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that [great] day—and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and longed for and welcomed His appearing.”

(1) Young's Literal - “... to all those loving His manifestation.”

- (a) “The presence and the manifestation of the presence are not the same. There can be the one without the other. God is here when we are wholly unaware of it. He is manifest only when and as we are aware of His presence. On our part there must be surrender to the Spirit of God, for His work it is to show us the Father and the Son. If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience, God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a life radiant with the light of His face.” - A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

C. Philip. 3:7-21

- 1. Our prize is to win Christ and to be found in Him
 - a) Vs. 8 AMP

D. Hebrews 12:1-2

- 1. Looking unto Jesus. He is our example AND our prize.
 - a) Vs. 2 AMP - “[looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the one who brings our faith to maturity]”

1 Corin. 9:24-27 - This is a fight that involves an very real enemy, but it’s worth the fight!