

LOVING HIS APPEARING
(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

I. Exhortations To Steadfast Service For Christ (1:3-2:26)

II. Exhortations To (Hear & Heed) Sound Doctrine (3:1-4:5)

III. Exhortation To Come Quickly (4:6-18)

A. Paul's Departure Was _____ (4:6-8)

*As the apostle often did, he used himself as an _____ to impress upon young Timothy the absolute necessity of remaining _____ to the Lord to _____!

Paul's personal testimony of his present situation (4:6)

a. The present tense of the phrase, "*I am already being poured out*" indicates that the process had already begun; he knew he was going to give his life in service for His Lord.

- But what did Paul mean by being "*poured out as a drink offering*"?
- The drink offering "poured out" symbolized:

1) the dedication of the offeror to God in worship (Paul was dedicated & he was being poured out)!
And ...

2) the gradual ebbing away of the sacrificed animal's life – here representing Paul's life (just like the OT animal's sacrificial blood being poured out in death (remember that the life is in the blood)

3) Soon there would be nothing left for the offeror (Paul) or the animal to give & death would ensue!

*In reality, ever since his conversion on the road to Damascus, his entire life had been a living sacrifice poured out & spent for the Lord Jesus Christ!

b. What was once a potential possibility six years earlier, in Philippi (his execution), was now an imminent reality at Rome!

c. Nero had ordered the execution of this enemy of the state, of this Christian fanatic, but in the apostle's Paul's mind, he was willing to lay down his life as a living sacrifice for the King of Kings! After all, the Lord had given His life for Paul.

- In light of his present testimony... Paul's present situation looked dim!

1. Paul's personal testimony of his past life (4:7)

- **The apostle now reviewed his past life, and he described it with three concise statements ...**

- 1) *“I have fought the good fight”* (perf/mid.dep/indic)...is how Paul described his never ending strenuous struggle against the forces of evil, against false teaching and, against the nagging temptation to compromise God’s truth!
- 2) *“I have finished the race”* (perf/act/ind) ... indicating that his eye had been constantly fixed on the goal of his race. So he put all of his energy into finishing well, in order to win the prize. (Acts 20:24; Philip. 3:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:5)
- 3) *“I have kept the faith”* (perf/act/ind) ...this indicated that he had guarded the purity of the gospel against perversion, and it had cost him dearly.

2. Paul’s personal testimony of his Future expectation (4:8)

- a. As the apostle turned his eyes towards the future, he most definitely did not view death as the bitter end, but rather he looked past death to a glorious future he was just about to enter (4:8a)
 - b. With his *“fight”* and *“race”* now behind him, he was looking forward to his reward - the *“Crown of Righteousness.”* (4:8b)
- There are 3 crowns mentioned in the New Testament:
- c. This victory prize would be handed out not at death, but at the Bema Seat, by none other than the *“righteous Judge”*, occurring after the rapture. (2 Tim. 4:1, 8c)
 - d. Thankfully we are informed that this crown is not exclusive to Paul alone, but it is available to all believers who anticipate his appearing at the rapture. (4:8d)

* How can you apply this marvelous truth?