

February 7, 2021.

Love One Another.

Our Verses for the day: John 13:34-35 (KJV) ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for February 7, 2021.

A Dying Christian's Testimony

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Paul had said in Philippians 1:21 **"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."** Now we find that he is doing that very thing. He is in Rome, in a dungeon, with not long to live, and most of his friends had turned against him.

Yet, while he was here preparing to die, we find that he never turned against God. He remained true all the way to the end.

Let us now look at his testimony and see what it speaks of:

1. VICTORIOUS PAST:

A. As a Soldier. He had **"Fought a good fight."** ⁽⁷⁾ He had gone through a glorious contest. He had fought the good fight of faith against all the principalities and powers of evil, seen and unseen.

2 Timothy 4:2: **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.**

It was a good fight, because it was for the goodness he had discovered in his God and Saviour. He had put his all in it, fought the devil and won.

Have we been good soldiers? Have we fought the fight: The fight of love, evil, obedience, dedication, etc.

B. As a racer. He had “finished his course.” Paul had his course laid out for him in Acts 9:15-16. **¹⁵But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.**

We also have our race to run, have we been running the race. Matthew 28:18-20

C. As a Believer: He had “kept the faith” He had guarded the truth revealed to him and preached and presented the Gospel of God’s grace as revealed in Christ.

Oh, how great this would be if all of us could say this, I have done all that is expected of me, I have kept the faith.

II. A PEACEFUL PRESENT. “I am now ready, and the time of my departure is at hand.” (V6)

For Paul, he was ready, like ripe fruit, to fall into the hand of Him to whom he belonged. Death to him had no sting or terrors: to him the grave had no victory. To depart was to be with Christ, which is far better.

Paul tells us to also be ready.

How can we be ready? Our readiness does not consist in the amount of good works we may have done, or the number of years we have lived, but in that “quietness and confidence” in Jesus Christ which brings the strength of His prevailing peace into the heart, and that calmly whispers: Father not my will but thing be done.

He could surely say alone with Jesus, and we ought to be able to say also Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord. Into thy hands I commit my spirit.

III. A BLISSFUL FUTURE: “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.” V 8

Paul was now looking forward to claiming this crown. He had worked faithfully for it.

Have we been working for our crown? Are we ready to claim the Crown? Will it be a crown from the Lord or a crown from the devil?

In Closing: Paul had an idea when His death would be, we do not.

In Rev. 22:12 we read: **And behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

Are we ready? Only you can answer that question.

As we continue to deal with Covid-19, all of us do not know what the future is, but we do know it is up to each of us to be prepared to meet Christ.

Pastor Larry Vickery

PO Box 133

South Heart, ND 58655

Cell: 701 260 5940

Email: ldvickery@gmail.com