

SERMON NOTES

Title: Starting Well, Finishing Well

Text: II Timothy 4:7

Topic: Faithfulness, Perseverance

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 5/30/21

File Under: Christian Living



Leaders in politics, athletics, business and even in the church who started well **don't always cross the finish line.**

WHY? THE THEOLOGICAL ANSWER: **SIN**

Men and women are born with a **sin nature** and are prompted by the Evil One to make **sinful choices.**

"The worst advise you can give to anyone is, Be yourself". Oscar Wilde

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." Jeremiah 17:9.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ANSWER: POWER CORRUPTS AND **EXHAUSTS.**

"Leaders are easy to spot they're the ones with arrows in their back."

A **meltdown** occurs when you walk too long under the weight of

leadership without a **break or assistance.**

THE RELATIONAL ANSWER: NO ACCOUNTABILITY

Often a successful powerful leader is surrounded by people who have a **blind loyalty.**

Every believer needs the kind of friend who will pray for them, encourage them, inspire them to godliness but also **hold them accountable** when they are heading down a wrong path.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7.

When we cross that final finish line of life may we hear the words from our Lord and Savior, *"Well done thou good and faithful servant."*

DIGGING DEEPER: [II Timothy 3:10 – 4:8] Why does Paul emphasize his character and suffering? By contrast, what is happening to the "evil men and imposters" (v. 13)? Is persecution necessarily a result of godliness? Why or why not? What does Paul say about the origin and purpose of Scripture that is especially relevant to Timothy's situation?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION: What barriers to faithful living do you encounter? How does Paul's example and charge encourage you in those situations? Since the Bible is central to Christian living, how will you build it into your life?