

**A Transformed Life
Fights the Good Fight
and Finishes the Race**

Starting Well... Doesn't Guarantee Finishing Well

Charles Templeton – Led evangelistic mission trips with Billy Graham

Passed away in 2001, about 6 years after writing "Farewell to God"

Derek Webb – Award winning Christian Singer

Has an affair and divorces his wife in 2014 and in 2016 announces he's not a Christian

Josh Harris – Pastor and Author of "I Kissed Dating Goodbye"

In 2019 "I'm not a Christian", and then divorced his wife of 20 years

Paul Maxwell (Christian Author, Moody Bible Professor, PhD from Trinity Evangelical Divinity Sch.)

In 2021 "I'm no longer a Christian", "I've finally found myself."

2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV2011) ¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Paul reminds Timothy that we are always being watched and that Jesus' Kingdom is continuing to be built but will come in its fullness when He returns.

Timothy has the role of an overseer/elder/pastor, and the preaching of God's Word is of the utmost importance and must be done always with great patience and careful instruction.

Even if you are not a pastor, do you know that you are called to preach God's Word to those in your life?

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NKJV) ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Preachers and teachers of God's word are not here to tell you what you want to hear, they are to proclaim the full truth of God and they will be judged accordingly

Always be on the watch. The enemy wants to use any angle he can to move you further from Jesus. We must continue to speak the truth in love even while enduring afflictions

Are you taking enough time in God's Word, so you're not easily deceived by false teaching? Are you watchful over your heart?

2 Timothy 4:6-7 (ESV) ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

*Paul is in the Mamertine prison awaiting the day of his execution. He likens his life as an offering – **Romans 12:1 (NIV2011)***

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

*Though Paul speaks in the first person, He has written many times that effectively fighting the good fight and finishing the race **ONLY** comes when you are living and walking by the Holy Spirit.*

Are you regularly in prayer, studying God's Word, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you into the image of Jesus?