

Series: The Essential Church; Sermon: **Finish the Race**;
Delivered on August 11, 2019, by **Ben Panner**, college pastor

Bible text explored: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. [ESV]

Review and Application

1. When Paul writes (v. 6) that he is “already being poured out, what is the word picture he is drawing?
(See *Exod. 29:38-41* and *Phil. 2:17*.)
What does Paul recognize about the time of his earthly ministry?
Why will his “departure” – like pulling up tent pegs or weighing anchor – not be a defeat?
2. But what urgency is Paul feeling about passing the baton off to the next generation?
What are some ways you could help younger believers step up to the challenges we face?
3. When Paul last met with the elders of the church Timothy now led, how did he describe his own service there?
(See *Acts 20:18b-21*.)
4. Here (v. 7), Paul returns to the three metaphors he laid out to Timothy earlier in this letter (2 *Tim. 2:3-6*). How did he summarize his performance as a soldier?
How had he endured as an athlete?
How had he planted, nurtured, and harvested a crop?
5. How did Paul compare his death sentence with what would follow? (See *Phil. 1:21*.)
6. What prize (v. 8) did Paul say awaited him after his departure? (See also *1 Cor. 9:25b*.)
When will this prize be awarded? (See also *1 Peter 5:4*.)
Who else is eligible to receive this prize?
(See also *James 1:12*.)
7. Do you sense that you are motivated by the same eager longing for Christ’s “appearing” described here?