

## Finish Strong! 2 Tim 4:5-8



*"Stopping at third adds no more to the score than striking out. It doesn't matter how well you start if you fail to finish." — Billy Sunday*

*"The last thing you want to do is finish playing or doing anything and wish you would have worked harder." — Derek Jeter*

Will you able to look back after basketball or at the end of your life without regret or remorse or are you taking life for granted saying I'll get around to it? Will you allow this message to be your "around to it" and challenge you to redeem the time? Let us be Finish Strong! To Finish Strong:

**I: Stay Awake and Fulfill Your Calling! (v5) As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an Evangelist, fulfill your ministry.** On all occasions and under all circumstances be awake/sober; even if you have to endure pain, suffer hardships, fulfill all God has called you to do, leave nothing undone, leave it all on the court, hold nothing back, put it all on the line!

**II: View Life from Three-Dimensional: (1) Acknowledge like Paul your Present Reality: (v6) for I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.**

**III: Ask Yourself Have You Been Faithful in Past: (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** What will you have to say when I look back over my life?

**IV: Considers The Future: (8) Henceforth 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.** Paul is not concerned about facing death but only anticipation of reward in the form of a crown - on that day (at Christ's return)!