

“HAVING THE RIGHT FOCUS”

(2 Corinthians 4:13-18)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 8

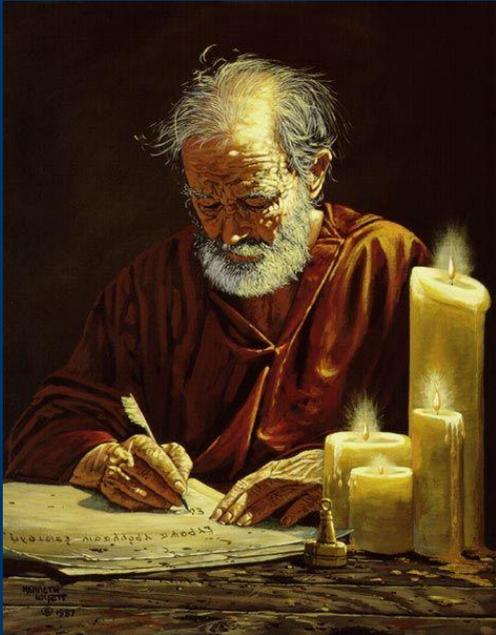
Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: August 13, 2017

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



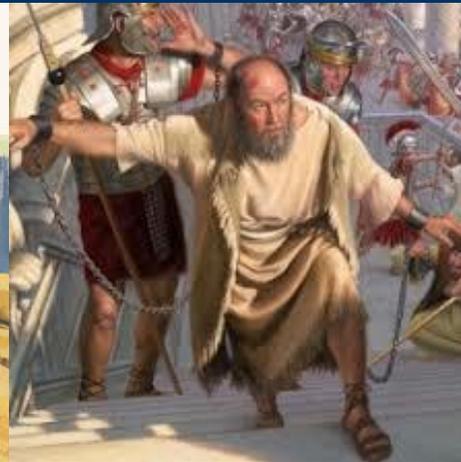
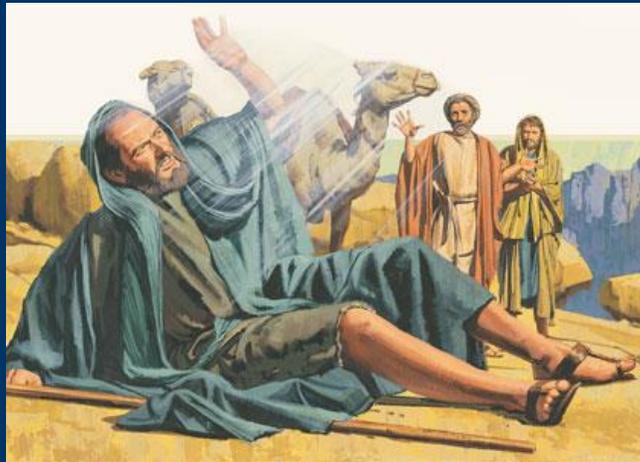
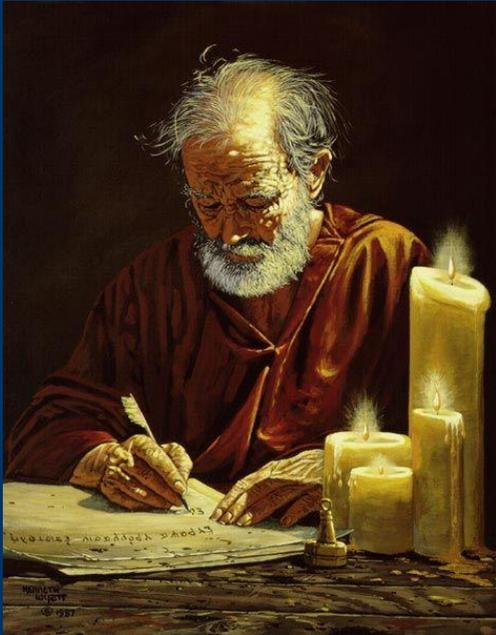
INTRODUCTION:



2 Tim 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

INTRODUCTION:

From his blinding start on the Damascus road to his binding shackles in a Roman dungeon, Paul was faithful to the end.



2 Tim 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

I. REALISTIC MOTIVATION



Start well

&

Finish well

Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization... The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war... Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say: "This was their finest hour."

(Winston Churchill)

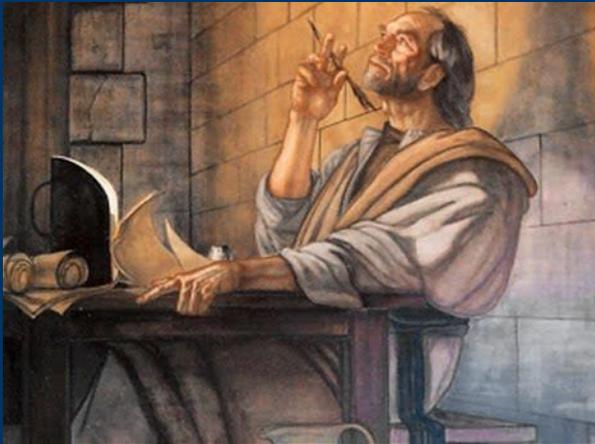
2 Cor 4:1 *"Since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart."*

II. ENTHUSIASTIC DETERMINATION



2 Cor. 4:13 *It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,*

Paul writes and speaks out of conviction

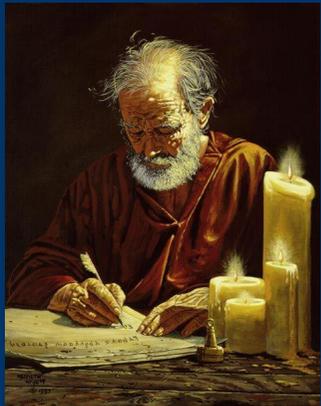


Ps. 116:3 *The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow. ⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!" ...*

16 *Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains. ... Praise the Lord!*

II. ENTHUSIASTIC DETERMINATION

A) Enthusiastic determination grows out of being delivered by the Lord.



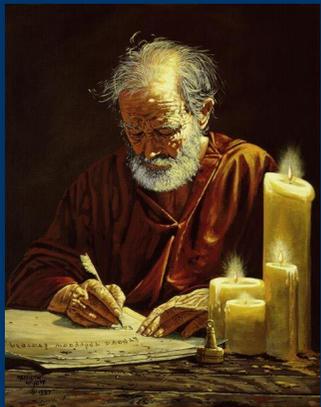
Just as Israel continually pointed back to that historic moment of deliverance, so we can point to the times when God has parted seas for us.

II. ENTHUSIASTIC DETERMINATION

B) Enthusiastic determination also grows when we focus on our being resurrected.



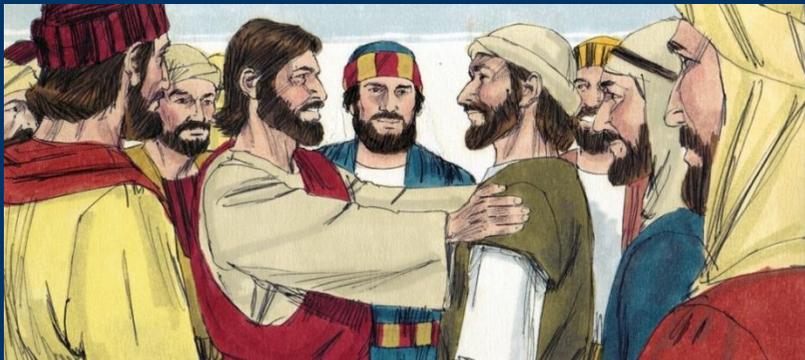
***2 Cor. 4:14** because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.*



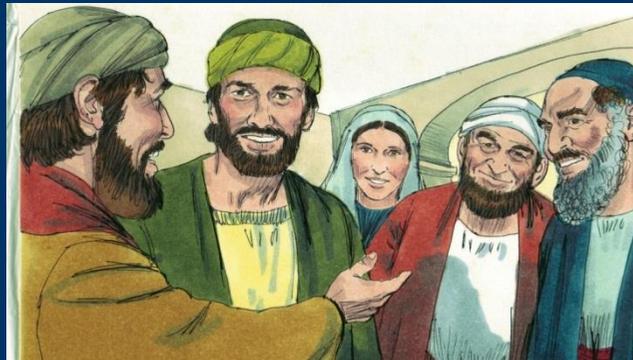
***15** All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*

II. ENTHUSIASTIC DETERMINATION

C) Enthusiastic determination grows by investing in the lives of others.



Jesus invest in the Disciples

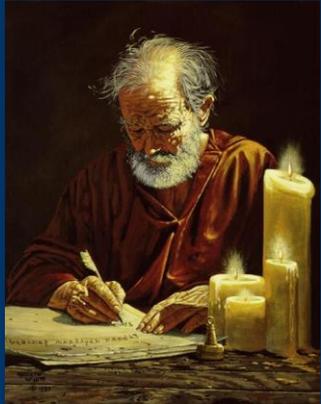


Barnabas invest in Paul



Paul invest in Timothy

III. AUTHENTIC VISION



2 Cor. 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

A) We are to focus not on the external but the internal.

B) We are to focus not on the temporal but on the eternal .



CONCLUSION:



As we conclude this sermon, it might be helpful to personalize this by asking ourselves a few questions.

A) Keep on weaving - even when the pattern cannot be discerned.



CONCLUSION:



As we conclude this sermon, it might be helpful to personalize this by asking ourselves a few questions.

B) Keep on investing - for that is the most profitable way we can utilize the time and talents given us.



CONCLUSION:



As we conclude this sermon, it might be helpful to personalize this by asking ourselves a few questions.

C) Keep on dreaming - no matter how dark and dreary the world appears.





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How would you like to be remembered as people who didn't quit? How would you define a person as faithful?*
- 2. When Paul says, "we do not lose heart" what does it imply?*
- 3. What are some factors that cause us to lose heart?*
- 4. Paul says he has this enthusiastic determination to do what he set his eyes on. What are some reasons that give him the enthusiastic determination?*
- 5. What are some qualities of authentic vision? What can we do to ensure that we do not lose our authentic vision?*
- 6. What must we do to maintain the right focus living in times of constant distraction?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 4:13-18