



Life Guide applying God's Word to life

This is My Gospel: Present, Past, and Future October 19, 2019

(2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18)

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1. What are the characteristics of memorable last words?
2. 2 Timothy is St. Paul's last words. Based on these passages, what would Paul add to your list from #1?

PRESENT

3. Paul reference to a drink offering is from Numbers 15:1-12. In what ways is Paul's life like a drink offering?
4. The word for "departure" in v. 6 is the word for a untying a ship from the dock and sending it out to sea. How might that image give Paul peace about his approaching death?
5. Paul views his present this way because of his gospel, "**Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.**" (2 Tim. 2:8). Describe your present situation, be as specific as you can. How can the good news that Jesus is alive affect your view of the present?

PAST

6. In v. 7, how can Paul speak so highly of his past?
First, list 3 answers *worldly non-christians* might speak highly of their past. Then, consult 2 Tim. 2:8 for why Paul says this.
7. Everyone has things to be ashamed of in our past (Psalm 25:7). What is the spiritual danger of excusing our past dishonestly?
8. "**Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.**" (2 Tim. 2:8) has convinced you that your sins are forgiven. Knowing that, describe your past.

FUTURE

9. Paul did not know how imprisonment or trial would end. List the things about his future he *is certain* about.
10. Make a list of things you *don't know* about your future, and a list of things you *do know* about your future. For each item on your *do know* list, say why you are so certain.
11. What do you hope to say with your last words?