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Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

## Finish Strong

### *Finish Your Race and Fulfill Your Ministry*

2Timothy 4:6-22

"My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race, they sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race." - John Steven Akwari, Mexico City Olympics

### How Did Paul Measure Finishing Strong?

*Finishing strong is measured by **FINISHING** your race and **FULFILLING** your ministry from the LORD.*

#### Christ Followers Who Finish Strong...

- Persevere in **finishing their race** until Jesus comes or takes them home! 2Timothy 4:6-8
  - 1) **KEEP ON** living out your faith in Christ.
  - 2) Never **ABANDON** our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ and sound doctrine. 1Timothy 1:18-20; 2Timothy 1:12-14
- Persevere in **fulfilling their ministry** until Jesus comes or takes them home! 2Timothy 4:1-5; Colossians 4:17-18
  - 1) Never **RETIRE** from the ministry.
  - 2) Keep on **LABORING** to the point of exhaustion in the ministry.

### How Was Paul Able to Finish Strong by Finishing His Race and Fulfilling His Ministry?

*He persevered in finding strength in the **LORD** through the **WORD** of the Lord!*

#### Christ Followers Finish Strong...

- By **FINDING** their strength in the LORD. 2Timothy 4:16-18

### Grace to You and Grace Be with You!

[See Handout]

**FIRST WORDS PAUL WROTE:** *Grace to you* and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, Galatians 1:3

**LAST WORDS PAUL WROTE:** The Lord be with your spirit. *Grace be with you.* 2Timothy 4:22

### WE NEED GRACE for the RACE to FINISH STRONG!

*Those who finish strong **RECEIVE** and **RELY** on His grace for their race!*

#### According to the Apostle Paul...

- 1) Finishing strong is **IMPOSSIBLE** apart from receiving grace.
- 2) Finishing strong requires grace to **REMAIN/ABIDE** with us.
- 3) Finishing strong is a **GIFT** of grace from the Father, Son, and Spirit
- 4) Finishing strong is an **INSIDE WORK** of grace.

- 5) Finishing strong is the result of **TRANSFORMING** grace.
- 6) Finishing strong comes through persevering **FAITH (PRAYER)** in unending future grace.
- 7) Finishing strong is a result of Jesus **REIGNING** over our lives by His grace.
- 8) Finishing strong is due to receiving the abundant **RICHS** that come with His grace
- 9) Finishing strong is due to the grace given to those called to be saved by grace through faith in the gospel message proclaimed.  
*Romans 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 2-3; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Titus 1:1-4*
- 10) Finishing strong is due to grace that **ENABLES** us to be steadfast and immovable in the storms of life.

#### What Is Grace?

*Grace is a gift from God in Christ by the Spirit that we do not deserve and can never earn!  
It is the power and desire to do whatever pleases God for Christ's glory, our good, and the joy of all peoples!  
Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:20-21; Romans 16:25-27; Jude 24-25*

- By **RECEIVING** their strength through the Word of the Lord.

*When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. 2 Timothy 4:13*

#### What Were the Books and the Parchments?

- 1) Copies and translations of the **Old Testament books of the Bible?**
- 2) Copies and portions of **Christ's sayings (most of?), which we now have in the Gospels?**
- 3) Copies of **Paul's letters (and those of other apostles) to the churches?**

#### What Did Paul Do with the Word Once He Got It?

- 1) Paul **read** the Word for himself. *1 Timothy 4:6; Colossians 3:16*
- 2) Paul **fed** the Word to others in ministry. *2 Timothy 4:2; 2:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:13-16*
- 3) Paul **led** with the Word in the church. *1 Timothy 3:1; 4:13, 16; 6:3; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:9, 14; Titus 1:9*

### Persevere in Finding Strength in the Word to Finish Strong for the Lord.

1. Read the Word to **HEED** it for ourselves.

- Check out these **reading plans** to use in 2019

<<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/bible-reading-plans-3/>>  
<<https://www.alextran.org/23-bible-reading-plans-that-will-satisfy-anyone/>>

- Check out these **digital resources** to use in 2019

- ☐ **YouVersion.com** has a variety of translations and reading plans <[youversion.com](http://youversion.com)>
- ☐ **Read Scripture** is a great app with video overviews of every book and many doctrines <[readscripture.org/](http://readscripture.org/)>
- ☐ **Read the Bible for Life Bible Reader** – Includes the complete Holman Christian Standard Bible and a sample of the book, *Read the Bible for Life* by Dr. George Guthrie. (FREE app at iTunes.)
- ☐ **iTunes** has all sorts of apps for your tablet or smart phone.
- ☐ **WeAreLifeBridge.com** – Check out links for a variety of resources to help you **KNOW, GROW, SHOW**, and **GO** under **Resources**.

2. Read the Word to **FEED** it to others in ministry.

- Renew your commitment to use God's Word to help others KNOW, GROW, SHOW, and GO with Christ!

3. Read the Word to **SEED** it to others in the world.

- Renew your commitment to sow with abandon, accuracy, power, boldness, perseverance, and watchfulness!

4. Read the Word to **LEAD** with it in the church.

- Renew your commitment to apply God's Word to yourself and your leadership relationships, roles, and responsibilities.

### Finish Strong: Finish Your Race and Fulfill Your Ministry

*Persevere in Depending on Grace for the Race and Finding Strength in the Word to Finish Strong for the Lord!*

## GRACE TO YOU and GRACE BE WITH YOU!

FIRST WORDS PAUL WROTE: *Grace to you* and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, *Galatians 1:3*

LAST WORDS PAUL WROTE: The Lord be with your spirit. *Grace be with you.* *2Timothy 4:22*

Gal 1:3 Gal 6:18	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.
1Thess 1:1 1Thess 5:28	Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: <b>Grace to you</b> and peace. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
2Thess 1:2 2Thess 3:18	Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Rom 1:7 Rom 16:20	to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: <b>grace to you</b> and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. <b>The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.</b>
1Cor 1:3 1Cor 16:23	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
2Cor 1:2 2Cor 13:14	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
Col 1:2 Col 4:18	To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ <i>who are</i> at Colossae: <b>Grace to you</b> and peace from God our Father. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. <b>Grace be with you.</b>
Philemon 3 Philemon 25	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Eph 1:2 Eph 6:24	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.
Phil 1:2 Phil 4:23	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
1Tim 1:2 1Tim 6:21	To Timothy, <i>my</i> true child in <i>the</i> faith: <b>Grace</b> , mercy <i>and</i> peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. <b>Grace be with you.</b>
Titus 1:4 Titus 3:15	To Titus, my true child in a common faith: <b>Grace</b> and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in <i>the</i> faith. <b>Grace be with you all.</b>
2Tim 1:2 2Tim 4:22	To Timothy, my beloved son: <b>Grace</b> , mercy <i>and</i> peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. The Lord be with your spirit. <b>Grace be with you.</b>