



Christian Mentoring

JOHN MALLISON MINISTRIES

PAUL'S ADVICE ON FINISHING WELL

Second Letter to Timothy

Paul invested time and energy in both helping with the establishment of the church in Ephesus and in seeking to keep it faithful to the teachings of Christ. When the problems he forecast arose, he sent Timothy to minister in a difficult situation, later sending his first letter to help Timothy address the issues involved.

Paul's second letter to Timothy is essentially about how to finish well as a leader. It is the most personal of Paul's letters. There is a deep bond between them – stronger than that between the average mentor/mentoree. Timothy is Paul's protégé.

The wise advice is based on years of tough personal experience and exemplary leadership. **The letter is essentially about perseverance.**

Some of the main themes of this essential guide to finishing well as a leader are:

- Expecting suffering and hanging in through a well maintained close relationship with God that creates character and credibility.
- Personal and spiritual growth made possible through divine resources.
- Being skilled in
 - the use and application of God's word,
 - the selection and development of emerging leaders and
 - awareness of our immediate and ultimate accountability to God
 - acceptance of God's grace (to us as well as to one another)

1) Finish well (2 Tim 4:7,8)

2) Make prayer a priority (2 Tim 1:3)

3) Keep developing your gifts and yourself (2 Tim 1:6,7,14; 4:1-5)

4) Remember you are ultimately accountable to God (2 Tim 4:8,14)

5) Keep selecting and developing leaders (2 Tim 2:2,14)

6) Remain focused (2 Tim 2:1-4;10,21)

7) Ensure your ministry is Bible centred (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16,17)

8) Expect opposition (2 Tim 2:22-26, 3:8)

(9) Model God's grace openly and honestly (2 Tim 3:10-14)

FOR REFLECTION:

- Of the items above, which are your strengths?
 - Give reasons
- In what areas may you need help to finish well?
 - In what ways?
- What would Paul urge you to act on now, if you were in Timothy's shoes?

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