

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, THE CHURCH LIFE, THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE,
AND THE COMING OF THE LORD, Week 7**

**Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course,
and Loving the Lord's Appearing**

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 4:7-8, 10; 1 Tim. 1:4, 18; 6:12; Acts 20:24; Heb. 12:1-2

2 Timothy 4:7	I have fought the good fight ; I have finished the course ; I have kept the faith .
2 Timothy 4:8	Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness , with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing .
1 Timothy 1:4	Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith .
1 Timothy 1:18	This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare ,
1 Timothy 6:12	Fight the good fight of the faith ; lay hold on the eternal life , to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.
Acts 20:24	But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself , in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God .
Hebrews 12:1	Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,
Hebrews 12:2	Looking away unto Jesus , the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Day 1 & Day 2

I. "I have fought the good fight"-2 Tim. 4:7a:

- A. A proper Christian life involves **fighting the good fight** against Satan and his kingdom of darkness and for the interests of God's kingdom-Eph. 6:10-19.
- B. Paul considered the ministry a warfare for Christ, just as the priestly service was considered a military service, a warfare-2 Tim. 2:3; Num. 4:23, 30, 35.
- C. "No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life"; this means that to fight the good fight for God's interests on earth, we need to **clear away all earthly entanglements**-2 Tim. 2:4.
- D. Paul charged Timothy, his faithful co-worker, to fight against the differing teachings and to **fight for God's economy**-1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3-4.
- E. To **war the good warfare** is to war against the **differing teachings** and to carry out God's economy according to the apostle's ministry concerning the gospel of grace and eternal life for the glory of the blessed God-1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12.
- F. Whenever we minister Christ to others, we find ourselves in a battle; hence, we should be **soldiers fighting for God's interests**-2 Tim. 2:3-4.
- G. To **teach** and **preach** God's New Testament economy concerning Christ and the church is to war the good warfare-1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 5:32.
- H. To fight the good fight of the faith means to **fight for God's New Testament economy**; in particular, it is to fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ-1 Tim. 6:12; 1:4; Col. 2:9, 19.
- I. We fight the good fight of the faith not only objectively but also subjectively by **laying hold on the eternal life**-1 Tim. 6:12.

Day 3

II. "I have finished the course"-2 Tim. 4:7b:

- A. "I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus"- Acts 20:24:
 1. Paul began to run the course of the heavenly race after he was taken possession of by the Lord, and he **ran continually** that he might finish it- 1 Cor. 9:24-26; Phil. 3:12-14.
 2. It was not until the last moment of his running the race that the apostle Paul could triumphantly proclaim, "I have finished the course," and have the assurance that he would be **rewarded by the Lord at His appearing**- 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
- B. A **proper Christian life** involves running the course, the race, for the **carrying out of God's economy** according to His eternal purpose-1 Cor. 9:24.
- C. We need to seek out the journey that the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it, **paying any price** to wholeheartedly continue on our journey until we reach the end-2 Tim. 4:7.
- D. The journey that the Lord has **ordained** for us is the race that we all must run-Heb. 12:1:
 1. After we are saved, God puts us into a race, which is **aimed directly at the kingdom**-2 Tim. 4:1b.
 2. We cannot choose the course that we want to run; rather, we must **run the race that God sets before us**-Acts 20:24.

- E. We need to "run with endurance the race which is set before us"-Heb. 12:1:
1. Like the apostle Paul, all Christians must run the race to win the prize, not salvation in the common sense but a reward in a special sense- 10:35; 1 Cor. 3:14-15; 9:26-27; Phil. 3:13-14.

Day 4

2. We need to run the race with **endurance**, suffering the opposition with endurance and never growing weary or fainting in our souls-Heb. 12:2-3.
- F. We run the Christian race by "**looking away unto Jesus**, the Author and Perfecter of our faith"-v. 2:
1. Jesus is the Author of faith-the Originator, the Inaugurator, the source, and the cause of faith-v. 2:
 - a. We need to look away unto Jesus with **undivided** attention by **turning away from every other object**-vv. 1-2; S. S. 1:4; Psa. 27:4.
 - b. When we **look away unto Jesus**, He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) **transfuses us with Himself**, with His believing element.
 2. Jesus is the **Perfecter of faith**-the Finisher and Completer of faith-Heb. 12:2:
 - a. As the Completer of faith, the Lord Jesus continually infuses Himself into us as the **believing element and ability**-Acts 7:2; Gen. 15:6.
 - b. When we look away unto Him, He ministers heaven, life, and strength to us, transfusing and infusing us with all that He is so that we may be able to **run the heavenly race** and **live the heavenly life** on earth- 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - c. As we look away unto Him continually, He will **finish and complete** the faith that we need to run the heavenly race-Heb. 12:1-2.

Day 5 & Day 6

III. If the Lord's second coming is precious to us, we will **love His appearing**- 2Tim. 4:8:

- A. Loving the Lord's appearing and loving the Lord Himself are **inseparable**-1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Tim. 4:8.
- B. If we are waiting for the Lord to come, we should be those **who love His appearing**-1 Thes. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:8.
- C. The Lord's appearing, His coming back, is a **warning**, an **encouragement**, and an **incentive** to us-vv. 1,18:
 1. We should love the Lord's appearing and look forward to it with **earnest expectation and joy**-Rev. 22:20.
 2. We should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing; this causes us not to be discouraged but to **remain faithful to the end**-2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 17:14.
- D. Loving the Lord's appearing is in **contrast to loving the present age**-2 Tim. 4:8, 10:
 1. An age is a part, a section, or an aspect of the world system of Satan, which is used by him to **usurp** and **occupy** people and **keep them away** from God and His purpose-1 John 5:19; 2:15.
 2. In 2 Timothy 4:10 the present age refers to the world that **surrounds**, **attracts**, and **tempts** us; we cannot contact the world unless we contact the present age of the world.
 3. Demas loved the present age; due to the **attraction** of the present age, he forsook the apostle Paul-v. 10.
 4. In Romans 12:2 Paul exhorts us to not be fashioned according to this age but to be **transformed by the renewing of the mind**:
 - a. This age in verse 2 denotes the present, practical part of the world, which **stands in opposition** to the Body life and **replaces** the Body life -vv. 4-5.
 - b. To be fashioned according to this age means to **adopt the modern fashions of the present age**; to be transformed is to **allow an organic element to be wrought into our being**, thus producing an inward metabolic change- v. 2; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - c. Because the present age opposes the church, which is God's will, **we must not be fashioned according to it**-Rom. 12:2.
 - d. If we are to live in the Body of Christ, we should not follow the present age or be fashioned according to this age or conformed to it-vv. 4-5.
 5. If we love the present age, we will take sides with the world; if we love the Lord's appearing, we will **take sides with Him and fight with Him for His interests**-2 Tim. 4:1-2, 4-8, 10.
- E. Those who love the Lord, wait for His coming, and love His appearing will **overcome**-1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:20; 17:14.
- F. Loving the Lord's appearing is a proof that we **love** the Lord and **live** for Him today; hence, it also becomes a condition for us to **receive** His reward-2 Tim. 4:8, 18.
- G. To love the Lord's appearing does not mean that we should not live a normal life; rather, the more we love His appearing, the **more we need to live a normal life today**-Matt. 24:40-42; 2 Thes. 1:10; 3:6-12; 1 Tim. 5:8.
- H. As those who love the Lord Jesus, take Him as our life, live Him, and magnify Him, we should **await** His coming and love His appearing; this should be **our heart's desire** and our **living** as those who hope to enter into His joy, be saved into the Lord's heavenly kingdom, and receive the crown of righteousness- 2 Tim. 4:8, 18.

Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today
Material Offerings and Full-time Service for the Lord's Move

Week 4 – Day 1 (January 25, 2021)

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?

And I said, Here am I; send me.

Dan 11:32 b ... But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

“show strength and take action.”

... There is the need of an **appropriate direction** for the Lord's move in His recovery today to match the recent changes in the world situation.

The Lord's move and our move are both signified by a wheel. The wheel within a wheel is the Lord's move in our move. **When God's people move, God moves.** If God's people do not move, God has no way to move.

... There is famine of truth ..., the Lord's recovery is growing, ...

... The spreading of the truths of the Lord's recovery will be a **preparation for the Lord's coming back** to bring the recovery and restoration not only to Israel but also to the entire creation.

... I hope that we would bring this fellowship to the Lord and pray. We should tell the Lord, “Lord, these days are the consummation of the age. Lord, in these days my rekindle love toward You.”

The scattering of the believers from Jerusalem to other localities is the first mentioning of migration for the spreading of the gospel; hence it should be considered as the basic principle for the **spreading of the gospel**, including the divine truths.

To take action [Dan 11:32] means to do something **noble** and **worthy** which may be considered as an achievement. Especially in these days in the Lord's recovery, we need to be those who show strength and take action.

Week 4 - Day 2 (January 26, 2021)

2 Cor. 6:10 As made sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

Phil. 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack,

“know how to be abased and know how to abound.”

The full-timers should live a **life by faith, trusting** in the Lord for their necessities and receiving the Lord's supply through the saints and the churches. If we feel led and burdened by the Lord to go full-time, **we should not worry about our necessities.** We have to believe in the Lord and put our trust in Him. We should not think that we will have a prosperous life in material things. **We must get ourselves prepared to suffer.** **The first suffering is poverty.** We need to learn to serve the Lord in poverty. Some think that if they serve the Lord in poverty, that is a sign they have not chosen and called by the Lord. However, the apostle Paul was in poverty (2 Cor. 6:10; 11:27). Because the churches established by him **did not adequately support him**, he was forced to make tents (Acts 18:3). At the same time, he ministered to the needs of his co-workers (20:34).

... To serve the Lord in this way is glorious. If the Lord has called us and sent us, He will surely take care of us. He has a way to supply us through the saints and the churches.

When we serve the Lord, we should not have the thought that we are hired in any sense by anyone or any church. If the church supplies us, that does not mean that the church hires us. That is **not a wage** but **the Lord's supply** through the church. We have to fully realize that the Lord in supporting us needs His Body (the church) and the members of His Body (the believers) to cooperate with Him.

Week 4 - Day 3 (January 27, 2021)

2 Cor. 8:14 But it is out of equality; at the present time your abundance for their lack, that their abundance also may be for your lack, so that there may be equality;

2 Cor. 8:15 As it is written, “He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack,”

“fellow workers in the truth”

The Bible encourages us to **support the full-time workers.** **Third John 5-8** tells us we need to take care of, support, and send the travelling full-time workers forward on their way in a way that matches God, who is generous. If we support the full-timers, we are participating, sharing, in their work for the truth, and we become **“fellow workers in the truth”** (v. 8).

It is a great thing to have a **fellowship unto the gospel.** Unto the gospel means for the furtherance of the gospel. All the full-timers who remain in their jobs and businesses need to have this kind of fellowship, a fellowship for the furtherance of the Lord's move through those who do not remain in businesses and jobs, but who are occupied all day with preaching and teaching for the spreading of the Lord's kingdom.

Week 4 - Day 4 (January 28, 2021)*Act 2:44 And all those who believed were together and had all things common;**Act 4:32 And the heart and soul of the multitude of those who had believed was one; and not even one said that any of his possessions was his own, but all things were common to them.***God will *fill* your every need**

It is not sufficient ..., reminding the saints how they practice ten percent tithing. This is too poor. The tithing of the ten percent to the Lord is altogether an Old Testament thing, belonging to the law. There was no grace, life, or life power in that. We must be different. We are in the age of grace, which provides us with much supply of life. The **dynamic salvation** was accepted by Zaccheus in **Luke 19:1-10**. Immediately after being saved, that sinner gave up so much of his worldly possessions. That was **not** tithing of ten percent; that was the very issue of the dynamic salvation. Likewise, on the Day of Pentecost all those small members had everything in common (**Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-35**). This was **not** one tenth of their possessions but one hundred percent. They put everything at the feet of the apostles, that is, at the Lord's disposal. That was wonderful. We are in the Lord's recovery; even this matter has to be recovered.

Train the saints who love the Lord so much. It is regrettable that in the past they did not receive the adequate education or instruction in this matter. The more they would spend for the Lord, the more they have the blessing spoken of in **Philippians 4:19**.... This verse is a great blessing.... Because you are taking care of God's need, God would **give you a great blessing** in filling every need of yours **according to His riches**.

Week 4 - Day 5 (January 29, 2021)*Phi 4:15 - 16 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I went out from Macedonia, no church had **fellowship** with me in the account of giving and receiving except you only; For even in Thessalonica you sent both once and again to my need.**Phi 4:19 And my God will **fill your every need** according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus.***“*fellowship* ... in the account of giving and receiving”**

What kind of sweet feeling the apostle expressed [in **Philippians 4:15-16**]! He said this was “*a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God*” (v. 18). Paul did not seek a gift from them (v. 17), but what they gave became a sweet savor for Paul to put on the altar for them. It was not merely something to support him, but it became something increasing to their account. There is an account in the heavenly bank, in which we may have credit or debit. It is merely a low practice to give ten percent. God is not a beggar; do not treat Him as one. You should **honor Him** as the very bountiful Giver who affords you all the riches. **All your riches come from Him**. It was and still up to Him whether you will be rich or not. It is not according to your plan of what you should do and have. You simply must labor, day and night. He then will follow your labor to bless you, not for your enterprise, but for the spreading of His kingdom.

Week 4 - Day 6 (January 30, 2021)*1 Cor. 16:2 On the first day of the week, each one of you should lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered, that no collections be made when I come.***“... *lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered*”**

If we mean **business** with the Lord for the spreading of all the truths, He has shown us, we all to bear the burden to give ... purely, solely, and definitely separate for the full-time workers' support. Every time you give the Lord through the church, ... should be given to the Lord to support full-time workers for His propagation. Every church ... should practice this.

I hope all the churches will begin to practice this regardless of whether or not they have full-time workers and regardless of how many workers they have. The leading ones should fellowship with saints concerning giving ... for the full-time workers. Then the church should **set up a separate account** for the support of full-timers whether it has a full-timer or not. The funds in this account will eventually be useful. The Lord desires many full-time workers for His present move.

... We all need to pray and seek the Lord's leading regarding this matter. **There should only be a principle set up with no regulation**. The church needs to take care of the principle of setting aside ... offerings for the full-time workers. But this does not exclude the saints from giving to the full-timers directly.