

Finishing Well (2 Timothy 4)

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 28 December 2025

Preacher: Isaac Ko

[0 : 00] You said it wasn't me, it's usually he's with me. Today I'm with him. Isaac, welcome. Thank you. Good morning, Church.

Good morning. What a privilege it is for me to stand here and talk to you on the last Sunday of 2025. It's all a bit strange at this time of the year, isn't it?

In this time, there are some times like a little bit strange, right? We've just finished the craziness of Christmas. In the Christmas of Christmas, everyone is very busy. And we're looking forward to New Year.

But we're looking forward to New Year. We've had the hustle and bustle of family and the parties of friends. Over to the past few days, everyone is very busy. There are parties, and we're looking forward to New Year.

We're looking forward to 2026 and all that the New Year brings. 2026. New beginnings.

[1 : 06] New year's resolutions. New year's resolutions. New dreams and goals and plans. There are some dreams, goals and plans. But Church, I think it would be a little bit of a mistake to just waste these in-between few days.

But in the last seven days, we don't want to waste it. We're at the final stage now. And I think we can take the next few days to make sure we've finished well.

Let's not sprint to the finish line without considering what God may still have in store for us.

2026 is a special year for me. 2025■, it will be the last year where I am just a husband, a son, and a brother.

Don't spoil the surprise. Don't spoil it. I'm just a husband or son. 2026 is going to be different because on top of all of that, I'm also going to be a dad.

[2 : 17] Oh, I'm going to be a dad. Which is crazy because if you know me, I'm surprised I'm allowed to cross the road by myself. Let alone be responsible for a brand new, fresh life.

But by the grace of God, he's blessed Cynthia and me with a little one coming soon. When is it? You don't know?

If I get a call now, I'm leaving it up to Moxie to preach the rest of my sermon. So for my life, it's a chapter coming to a close.

And another chapter beginning. A lot more nappies and a lot more bottles. A lot more nappies and a lot more bottles. A lot more nappies and a lot more bottles.

So yes, a finishing well has been on my mind for a little while. Yes, how can I do a good end? I'm always thinking about this. 2025 for you might have been the best year of your life.

[3 : 35] To you, maybe in the past one year, it may have been a good end. It may also have been the worst. But for some people, you might have had the biggest wins at work.

Or maybe the lowest lows with loss of loved ones. It could have been a year you would love to live once again.

There are times, you might have been a year you would love to live once again. Or maybe one you just can't wait to forget. But that's the trouble with time, isn't it?

You can't get it back. But the time is like this. The past is not able to get it back. So for now, let's look through the encouragement in the word. As we see Paul reflecting on his life.

We'll see if we see Paul's kingdom. Let's see if we see Paul's kingdom. Let's see if Paul's kingdom. And let's think to ourselves, what would it look like for us to finish 2025 well?

[4 : 50] What are some things we should do? What are some things we shouldn't do? But before that, let's pray.

Father, we thank you for giving us 2025. Thank you for the good times and the bad times we've gone through. Thank you that every day is a new day in Christ.

And so is every year. May your Holy Spirit open hearts and minds as we dive into your word today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

So thank you for the reading on 2 Timothy chapter 4. This is a bit of a special book because this chapter of Timothy may have been the last time Paul ever put pen to paper.

This book is a special book. Maybe this book is a special book. It is that the book is written in the last book. It is written in the last book. Here we have a man responsible for over half of the books in the New Testament.

[6 : 09] Now, we can imagine that he has written in the last book. Here we have a man who has written to teach, to preach. Now, this one of the people who has written to teach, to preach. Now, this one of the people who has written to teach, to preach.

He has instructed, he has disciplined. To preach, to preach. Now, in this final letter to Timothy, now, in this final letter to Timothy, now, in this final letter to Timothy, now, in this final letter to Timothy, who he considers almost like a son, he reflects on finishing well.

This one, like his own father's son, a young man, who tells him how to keep a good good end.

Listen to this, in verse 6, For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

We look at the 6th and 7th. He says, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Paul knows he will be reunited with his Savior very soon.

Paul's journeys have brought him from the road to Damascus, to Jerusalem, to Ephesus, Rome, and beyond. He has crossed seas, performed miracles, been locked up in prisons.

[7 : 38] He has crossed seas, performed miracles, been locked up in prisons. He has crossed seas, and all the while, he has led countless people to Jesus Christ.

But no matter what, he has led a thousand or a million people to believe in Jesus. Paul has run a very long and hard race. Paul has run a very long and hard race.

And he knows he is about to step over the finish line. He knows he's ready to reach the end. He's ready to reach the end. So that is how chapter 4 begins.

This is how 4 is how to begin. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Paul urges one final thing of his dear friend, Timothy. The 4 1 says, I am in the Lord's face.

I am in the Lord's face. So that is with the Lord's face. I am in the Lord's face. I am in the Lord's face. I am in the Lord's face. None of us are promised tomorrow. And if you had one thing to say to those that were closest to you, what would that be?

[8 : 38] No one has to maintain 10 of the pressure. But if there are some things we want to give to our love and to our love and to our love and to our love and to our love what would that be?

Paul chooses these 3 words. Preach. Paul uses these 4 words. Preach the word. Preach the word. No. You. You. Really?

For. No, no, no. Really, Paul? Oh, sorry. I'm sorry. But Paul is preach the word. Just preach the word. Just preach the word. All the experiences you've had, the long life, exciting life you've lived. You've done so many things, you've done so many things, just preach. Just preach. You. Well, yes. Yes. If Paul's life is finishing now or very soon, the most important thing to him has been the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[9 : 42] For him, nothing else has come close to the joy and privilege of knowing Christ.

For him, nothing else has come close to the joy and privilege of knowing Christ. In fact, in an earlier letter to the Church of Philippi, Paul writes how everything else is considered garbage.

In he wrote to Philippi's, the, he said, Garbage compared to gaining Christ.

Yes, Jesus is the most important thing. If everything else is worthless, why would Paul not want to encourage Timothy to share the only thing that has real worth?

It's like those pirate movies you might have seen growing up.

[10 : 46] Just before the elderly captain dies, He gives the young sailor a treasure map.

X marks the spot and charges him to find the buried treasure.

And in the same way, Paul is encouraging Timothy to share the treasure that is Jesus Christ.

He tells him to be prepared in season and out of season.

Being able to correct, to rebuke and to encourage. Unlike the pirate's treasure, however, This isn't a secret buried under the sand on a lost island somewhere. The good news is free for all to receive.

[11 : 58] But what it does require is for people like you and me, brothers and sisters, followers of Jesus to proclaim this good news.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Paul knows that it won't be an easy task. He knows people will not put up with sound doctrine. People just want to hear, and care about what they want to hear.

Yeah, say what their itching ears want to hear.

[13 : 30] People will turn their ears away from the truth, Still, Paul says, Preach the word, Timothy.

Preach the word. Not only does that mean we are to spread the gospel, But the word spoken of here is the Bible.

Preaching is not just for the pastor on a Sunday morning.

Yeah, so you're here. The Greek word for preach simply means To openly and publicly proclaim.

It doesn't just need to be formal and on stage.

[14 : 32] It can be informal in the conversation. Anytime you speak the truth found in this book, You are preaching the word of God.

All of you, all of us that considers ourselves Christians, We should be doing this.

Brothers and sisters, Sometimes we may forget how simple the word of God can be.

We often ask him to speak to us. I know I definitely do. We pray for God's will to be done in my life, in my work, in my family.

We ask God for guidance on which school subject to take, which house to buy. We want to hear God's voice rumbling through the thunder.

[15 : 43] He might say, Isaac, don't take that Italian course in university. It will be your worst grade.

I didn't listen, and it was my worst grade. Don't get me wrong, I believe God can speak to us, directly and indirectly.

But because we hear it so much, we sometimes forget how important the simple things actually are.

I'm not saying we shouldn't pray about everything in life.

But when seeking the will of God, we should first look here, in the word.

He says preach the gospel.

[17 : 13] Preach the word. Black and white. Church, as we wrap up on this year, Paul reminds us that we need the gospel of Jesus more so than ever before.

It seems like the wars are around every corner.

Terrorist attacks hit so close to home. Every week there's another article about how AI will take over the world.

Declining half of a loved one? ██████████, ██████████, ██████████. Or maybe a failed relationship.

[24 : 16] ██████████. It may have caused you to question God, To wonder if He even cares. ██████████, ██████████, ██████████?

It can all be just a little too much. ██████████. Still, just as Paul encourages Timothy, I think this is encouraging for us as well.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████. Don't give up. ██████████. You see, Paul himself, he didn't have it easy either.

██████████, ██████████. For the greater half of his life, Paul has traveled across much of the modern world at the time. ██████████.

He has been persecuted, mocked, and like we said, just thrown in prison. ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████.

[25 : 24] As he writes this letter, he writes from the inside of a cold and lonely jail.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████.

It's really sad. Later on in verse 16, he says, No one came to my support. Everyone deserted me.

██████████16██████████, ██████████, ██████████.

But why did Paul go through all the suffering? ██████████? Why did he go through all this pain? ██████████? All of this, just so that Gentiles like you and me may come to know the works of Jesus Christ.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████. ██████████, ██████████.

God's plans for the world would still have been carried out. He doesn't need Paul.

██████████, ██████████.

[26 : 58] ██████████. But the way the gospel has reached different people in that day and age may have looked very different. ██████████, ██████████.

Without Paul, even the books of our Bible may have been different.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████. Paul says how his life has been poured out for Christ, a drink offering.

██████████. However, Paul doesn't just do this for Christ. ██████████.

He does this like Christ as well. ██████████. Like Christ. You see, Jesus himself was the one who endured the most torment.

██████████, ██████████. He was a suffering servant. Jesus was the innocent lamb. ██████████, ██████████.

[28 : 05] The one who lived the perfect life, yet endured the pain of death.

██████████, ██████████.

██████████, ██████████.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████.

██████████Paul, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████.

██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

██████████, ██████████, ██████████ ██████████

██████████, ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

██████████, ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

██████████, ██████████, ██████████

Endure hardship and don't give up. For all the ones that have endured through 2025, thank you for all the work that you have done.

[30 : 52] Even here in PCBC, in the church, for the ones that work behind the scenes, cleaning dishes, welcoming brothers and sisters, teaching children, Thank you for your faithful service.

For the ones that may be up here on stage, the worship teams, the MCs, as they stand on stage, To the leaders of departments or small groups of committees.

Thank you for fighting the good fight. And to our pastors. Thank you for leading and guiding PCBC. For running this race and setting a good example. This is not an encouragement from me, but rather from the word of God.

As Paul once again writes in his letter to Galatians in chapter 6, 9. In Galatians 6, 9. Let us not become weary in doing good. For at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

[33 : 00] And lastly, if you haven't accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. If you haven't accepted Jesus Christ as your God, your God, your God, your God. I want to do what I preached about earlier.

I urge you now. I want to do what I preached about earlier. I urge you now. I encourage you now. I encourage you now. Invite him into your heart. Confess your sins and declare that Jesus Christ. We are the risen King who has taken away the sins of this world. He is to for us to do the world. You too can enjoy life and life to the full. Both in this age and in the age to come. Feel free to come and speak to me after or any of the pastors if you want to know more. Church, 2025 is over in a few days.

[34 : 15] Have you had any thoughts about how to finish it well? I hope we can take away from Paul's letter today.

To take the word seriously and preach the gospel. To do the word seriously and preach the word. With great patience and careful instruction, preach the word.

We will be able to have that kind of■■■, that kind of from the Lord's power to come and preach the word. To preach the word.

And secondly, don't give up. And secondly, don't give up. Although your year may have been rough. Or in the past year, it may be difficult to face.

And who knows, maybe 2026 will be rougher even still. Maybe in the past year, it may be difficult to face. It may be difficult to face.

[35 : 17] Endure. But we can keep in the church and keep in the church. Fight the good fight. Run the long race. Keep the faith.

Keep the faith. Even if like Paul, everyone else around you has deserted you. Like■■■ that way,■■■■■■■■■■. God is still on your side.

Ask him for more strength, more grace, more peace, and I know he will give it to you.■■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■,■■■■■■.

Paul's last few words in the letter to Timothy are these.■■■■■■■■■■. At my first offense, no one came to support me, but everyone deserted me.

May it not be held against them, but 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.

[36 : 14] and I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever.

Amen.■■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■.

