Faith to the Finish
"Don't Stop Running"
2nd Timothy 4:7-8

July 4, 2021 - Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- **2nd Timothy 4:7-8**
- Question – "If the Christian life is a race, have you ever felt like quitting?"
- The "Big Jake Principle" – Matt Proctor
- Let's be honest … The Christian life isn't easy or simple.
- **John 14:33**
- **Acts 14:22**
- **1st Peter 4:12**
- Have you ever been tempted to just stop? (Your Christian Walk)
- Do you remember what it felt like when you first became a Christian?
- **2nd Timothy 1:2**
- Greek – <u>Agapeto</u> … English – <u>Dear</u> … "Very dear to someone … Beloved."
- **2nd Timothy 1:4**
- **Philippians 2:20**
- Two questions:
  - Do you have someone like Timothy in your life?
  - Do you have someone like Paul?
- Later, Paul hears bad news about the church in Ephesus:
  - Divisive (**1 Tim. 2:8**)
  - Materialism has crept into the church thinking. (**1 Tim. 6:5-10**)
  - False Teachings … Perverting the Gospel (**1 Tim.1:19-20 … 1 Tim. 4:1-3**)

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1. <u>Difficult Assignment</u>:
   a. Giving correction is always harder than giving direction.
   b. Timothy feels like he has three strikes against him:
      i. He is young – **1st Timothy 4:12**
      ii. He was sickly – **1st Timothy 5:23**
      iii. He was a bit of an introvert – **1st Timothy 4:14 … 1st Timothy 6:12 … 2nd Timothy 1:6-7**
   c. "If the Christian Life is a race, have you ever felt like quitting?"

2. <u>A Determined Believer:</u>
   a. **2nd Timothy 4:6**
   b. **2nd Timothy 1:15**
   c. **Mark 4** – Parable of the Sower
   d. Every person that walks away from the Lord, will take with them a failed mission for God.

3. <u>A Divine Encouragement:</u>
    a. Paul gives Timothy a charge: "Don't quit! … Be Faithful!"
    b. **2ⁿᵈ Timothy 1:2**
    c. What is Grace … It is God giving His attention to the undeserving.
    d. What is Mercy … It is God giving His aid to the unable.
    e. What is Peace … It is God giving His spiritual health to the unwell.
    f. Timothy finished strong in his ministry.
    g. REMEMBER, the Big Jake principle: "It is not how you start the race that matters. It is how you finish!"

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