

RETHINK, RESET, REFOCUS

— A SERMON SERIES IN 2 TIMOTHY —

GOD CALLS US TO
RETHINK THE LIES,
THE DISTRACTIONS,
AND THE HABITS
THAT DULL OUR FAITH.



GOD CALLS US TO
RESET OUR HEARTS,
OUR PRIORITIES,
AND OUR DIRECTION.

GOD CALLS US TO
REFOCUS ON HIS PURPOSE,
HIS POWER, AND HIS PRESENCE.



Finish Strong (2 Timothy 4:1-8), September 13, 2026

Shalom Ministries International Worship Service

Agnus Dei

[Verse]

Alleluia, Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

[Chorus]

Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the
Lamb

You are Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the
Lamb

Amen

Led by Paul Musembi, Worship Leader

Intercessory Prayer



(Led by Marc Musimbi, Prayer Leader)

Paul's Final Charge to Timothy (2 Tim 4:1-8)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, **I give you this charge**: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, **they** will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **But you**, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

For **I am** already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Preach the Gospel

- Ministry for God
 - **In the presence** of God and Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead (2 Tim 4:1)
 - A pastor's ultimate evaluation does not happen at an annual review or meeting people's expectation, but before the throne of Christ.
- I give you this charge: Preach the Word
 - Ministry is nothing if not preaching. Preaching is nothing if not declaring the Word of God.
- When to preach (seasonless charge)
 - Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2a).
- How to preach
 - Correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction (2 Tim 4:2b).
 - **Correct** (convince): Use the Word of God to expose sin; careful examination
 - **Rebuke**: Call people to turn from their sin in repentance.
 - **Encourage** (exhort): Call people to come alongside with Christ.
 - It is a long process: With great patience and careful instruction.

Why to Preach the Word of God

- Why to preach
 - For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths (2 Tim 4:3-4).
- Because people reject sound doctrine (teaching, instruction)
 - Doctrine is healthy, uncorrupted biblical instruction that accurately reflects God's truth.
 - Doctrine always distinguishes truth from falsehood, life from death, and heaven from hell.
- Because people are self-centered
 - Rather than allowing God's truth to reshape their desires, they select teaching that validates those desires.
 - Truth shapes my desires and my life vs. My desires determine what I hear and what I believe.
- Because people are rebellious
 - Itching ears → preferred teachers → turning from truth → turning toward myths.
 - People can choose teachers, churches, podcasts, social media, or online communities not because those voices are truthful, but because they affirm what they already want to believe.

Finish Strong

- Paul's pastoral charge to Timothy
 - **But you**, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry (2 Tim 4:5).
- Keep your head in all situations (Be watchful in all things, NKJV)
 - Stay calm (Do not panic when things go wrong); Think clearly (Keep your mind sharp).
 - It make wise choices when facing sudden pressure, confusion, or hardship.
- Endure hardship
 - Faithful ministry will sometimes involve suffering.
 - Don't interpret difficulty as evidence that you are failing. Faithfulness may require endurance.
- Do the work of an evangelist
 - A pastor's task is to proclaim the gospel and bring people to Christ. Don't let the work of the church replace the mission of the church.
- Discharge all the duties of your ministry
 - The emphasis is on faithful completion: complete, fully carry out, or bring your ministry to its intended fulfillment.

Paul Looks at His Presence

- Knowing his situation
 - For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near (4:6)
 - A drink offering involved pouring wine over the main sacrifice on the altar, viewing his death as a deliberate, meaningful act of worship and surrender to God.
- Departure (Death)
 - A separation of the soul from the body (Releasing from the corruptible body).
 - The unyoking of an animal from a plow or cart.
 - The end of our labors and toils in this life.
 - The battle is over, victory is won, we are headed home. It is finished (John 19:30).
- Death
 - For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain... I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far (Philippians 1:21-23).
 - I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me (Acts 20:24).

Reflecting on His Past Life

- To finish well, remember three things
 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7).
- I have fought the good fight
 - Good fight: The struggle involved in faithfully proclaiming and living the gospel in the face of opposition.
 - Faithful ministry requires courage to remain committed when the ministry becomes difficult.
- I have finished the race
 - Paul started well, didn't drop out of the race, but finished well.
 - The Christian life is not ultimately evaluated by how enthusiastically we begin but by whether we remain faithful throughout the journey.
- I have kept the faith
 - Despite everything that happened, Paul did not abandon Christ or the gospel.
 - The goal of ministry is not simply to achieve success but to remain faithful to the calling until the end.

Look Forward His Future

- Paul hoped to meet the Lord, the Righteous Judge
 - Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing (2 Tim 4:8).
- The crown of righteousness
 - The crown is an image of the reward given to someone who has completed the race faithfully.
 - Paul's ultimate evaluator is the Lord, the righteous Judge, not people, culture or this world.
- The future hope
 - On that day...longed for his appearing.
 - Trust Him for the final reward
 - Paul's ministry was future-oriented. “Christ is coming, and I want to be found faithful when He comes.”

Rethink, Reset and Refocus

- Rethink:
 - What is the true purpose of my ministry? What does success in ministry really mean? (not popularity, achievement, but faithfulness)
 - My ministry is not about building my name; it is about serving God's purpose.
- Reset:
 - Return to God's Word and God's calling when ministry becomes confusing or difficult.
 - My life belongs to God. I am called to pour it out, not preserve it for myself.
 - When ministry becomes difficult, return to your calling.
- Refocus:
 - Don't measure success by people's preferences; focus on faithfully fulfilling the ministry God has entrusted to you.
 - The goal is not simply to finish ministry successfully, but to finish faithfully.
 - Look toward Christ's appearing—the day when the righteous Judge will evaluate your life and ministry.
 - Paul's eyes were no longer fixed on what he had lost on earth; they were fixed on what awaited him in eternity.