



Week Four: Finish Well – Study Guide

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September 21, 2013

Life is hard. Following Jesus makes it even harder. Your life now involves a level of sacrifice, service, and obedience to God that you probably didn't worry about before. If you try to endure it alone, you won't make it. However, there is a way to do more than endure. You can finish well and thrive.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Hopefully through this series God has given you a goal that He wants you to pursue. Maybe it's an old goal that you didn't finish well in the past. What is that goal? What are you going to need in order to finish well?

Into the Bible

- 2) We all have different tendencies when faced with challenges. Some of us tend to ask for support from others, while some try to go at it alone. Take a look at **1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**; what did Paul recommend during troubles? Why?

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- 3) We all need good news sometimes. Look at **1 Thessalonians 3:6-11** to see a little bit about the importance of encouragement. What did Timothy's report do for Paul? What future hope did it continue to give him?

- 4) One of Paul's greatest ambitions was to finish well. He talked about it clearly in **Philippians 3:8-14** (especially in verses 12-14). According to this passage, how did he define finishing well? How devoted was he to it?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) It's not going to be easy to accomplish a life assignment. You are going to have trials that you'll have to work through. What are some trials and/or obstacles that you already think you'll face? How can you be ready for them?

- 6) Who do you need to surround yourself with to help you through those trials and to finish well? How can you help them with *their* life assignment?

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Prayer Focus

As a church, we are praying together for several things this month:

- Pray that things come together so we can close on the Statesville Campus building this month.
- Pray for Cove teams going out this month across the globe. Also, pray specifically for the thousands of Syrian refugees fleeing conflict.
- Pray for our students that the new school year provides great opportunities to live out their faith.

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) Finishing well is emphasized heavily in the Bible. Take a look at the following passages and then check out the questions below:

Read: **1 Samuel 13:5-14, 15:24-28; 1 Kings 11:1-8; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**

The Old Testament tells stories of people who had a great beginning, but strayed as they got older. Saul and Solomon are two of the most tragic examples. However, there are also people who finished well—even though they stumbled. David is a great example of that. Then there are men like Paul in the New Testament who had a horrible beginning but finished incredibly well.

What went wrong with Saul? What went wrong with Solomon? How can the end of Paul's life encourage you?