

## To Die Smiling

**Vs.6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering

**a.** To Paul, death was a **pouring out** {of a drink offering} .... *Grim! Gruesome! Horrible!* Yet...

**Philippians 2:17** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

**vs. 6** the time of my departure has come ?

**b.** To Paul, death was a **setting out** {like a ship from a harbor [out to sea ! ]  
or a soldier from a campsite[to battle? Or home?]}

*And he's OK! He's smiling at the future ! ?*

### TO DIE SMILING:

**1)** We must **enter the right race** ... Run the right "course"/compete in the right event/live for the **right** cause

**Vs. 7** I have fought the good fight (I have *struggled/wrestled/agonized* the right *struggle/wrestling/agony*)

**1 Corinthians 9:25** Everyone who competes in the games ...

➔ **HERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING (EVEN WELL!) FOR THE WRONG THING!**

**2)** We must not **quit early** ... not drop out ... not switch events .... persevere ... keep at it until it's over

**Vs. 7** I have finished the course

➔ **HERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING FOR THE RIGHT THING TEMPORARILY.**

**Luke 8:13** "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; **they believe for a while**, and in time of temptation fall away.

**2 Timothy 4:10** Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica ...

**3)** We must not **get disqualified** ... you must play by the rules ... we must not foul out

**Vs. 7** I have kept the faith

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may win.** Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore **I run in such a way**, as not without aim; **I box in such a way**, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, **I myself will not be disqualified.**

➔ **HERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING EVERY GOOD THING WE NOW HAVE...** "I had it!"

## AND THEN?

**Vs. 8** in the future there is laid up 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 loved His appearing.

### 1) **The Lord will appear...**

**Acts 1:11** "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

### 2) **... and He will judge all humanity...**

**Hebrews 9:27-28** And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for **salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.**

**Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### 3) **... and a crown of righteousness will be awarded to all who love His appearing!**

"love His appearing"?

**1 John 2:28** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and **not shrink away from Him in shame** at His coming.

"a crown of righteousness" ?

**1 Thessalonians 2:19,20** For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For **you are our glory and joy.**

## MEANING WHAT?

### a) **Do the work of the gospel!**

**Philippians 1:21,22** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean **fruitful labor for me**; and I do not know which to choose.

**Pay the price:** of becoming able, and of remaining ready and willing!

### b) **Keep your eyes and your heart on Jesus!**

**Hebrews 12:1-2** ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus...**

**Focusing on Jesus addresses the possibilities:** of living for the wrong thing...

of living for the right thing only temporarily...

of switching to the wrong thing...

**And makes it possible to die,**  
when it is your turn to die, and my turn to die, **to die smiling!**