

You Finished Well!

Review: 1968 Olympics – “Why not __ __ i __ ?” “Starting means nothing if there is no finish. Anyone can start, I came to __ __ __ **ish.**”

- * Jesus cry of victory was: It is ... _____! I have completed what God has purposed for me!
- * You enter a 10 lap race. For the first 9 laps you set a new world record. But without completing the final lap, your world record means very little.

Overview: Looking at our lives now and looking back on how we have spent our life, we want to be convinced that God is saying to us: “You have and are fighting the good fight. You are running God’s race. You have fulfilled your purpose. You have remained faithful – **You finished well!**”

At the end ... 2 Timothy 4:6 – As for me, my life has already been poured out as a drink offering to God. The time of my death is near. (7) I've fought the good **fight**. I've finished the **race**. I've remained *faithful*. (8) And now the prize awaits me – the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

At the beginning ... Galatians 2:2 – I went to Jerusalem to meet with the leaders. I wanted to be __ **u r** __ I was not running and had not been running my race in **v** __ __ **n**.

The “Fight” – Noun: “agon” (*agony*): The Place of **pu** __ __ __ __ assembly for the athletic contests.

Much of our “fight” is to be noticed and on display before the world of which we are a part. No back-alley fights, rather **s** __ __ **di** __ **ms** for all the world to see if the “light” will overcome the “darkness”.

The “Fight” – Verb: “agonizomai” (*agony in action*): The exhausting struggles and sufferings of the athletes and gladiators. Many times, the gladiators knew they would be fighting to death.

Colossians 4:12 – Epaphras, who is a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, **that** you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

1 Timothy 4:8 – For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. **That** is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

The “Race” – Noun: An arduous running contest held on an established **COU** _ _ _ .

The “Finish” – Verb: Ran and finished! What's the big deal? You won a race.

Hebrews 12:1 – ... Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, (2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

James 4:13 – Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” (14) Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (15) Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.” (16) As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes.

Ripples on the pond – Fought the fight, Finished the race, Remain faithful.

- * The way I lived my life (How I fought/finished/remained faithful) can and will have an **ev** _ _ **la** _ _ **ing** impact on God and others!
- * When we come to the end of our lives, will we be able to look back and say, “I have been involved in the battle for the cause of Christ?”
- * What a fulfilling thrill, when it comes time to die, to look back on our past and be able to say, “I've been a **p** _ **r** _ of the great struggle for the cause of Christ!”

The crown awaits you _ _ _ ! – Verse 8.