

Leaning at the Tape...Christians Finish Well

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Voltaire, the renowned atheist, cried out with utter desperation, "I am abandoned by God and man. I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months of life. Then I shall go to hell and you will go with me, oh, Christ, oh, Jesus Christ!"

Evangelist, D. L. Moody, on his deathbed, said, "I see Earth receding and heaven is opening. God is calling me."

Paul, on his way to Jerusalem, responds to the Ephesian elders:

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if I only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:24).

Leaning at the tape, finishing well for the Christian is:

1. A **Completed** Race

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

—2 Timothy 4:7

A Completed Race is:

- A **Finished** race.
John 19:30, Jesus said, "It is Finished."
- A **Faithful** Race
2 Timothy 4:7b, "I have kept the faith..."
- A **Fruitful** Race—
Acts 20:24, "Complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me."

Leaning at the Tape, finishing well for the Christian is:

2. A **Victorious** Race

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day.—2 Timothy 4:8

"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." —Acts 7:55-56

Stephen, **stefanoj**, meaning a Crown,

from the root, **stefw** (*stepho*), meaning to twine or wreath.

- a crown, a mark of royal or (in general) exalted rank
- the wreath or garland given as a prize to victors in games

Leaning at the Tape, finishing well for the Christian is:

3. A **Loving** Finish

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

—1 Corinthians 13:13

Luke 23:34, (Jesus), *Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.*

Acts 7:60, (Stephen), *Lord do not hold this sin against them.*

2 Timothy 4:16, (Paul), *May it not be held against them.*

John 13:1, *“It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.”* (NASB and KJV say, “He loved them to the end.”)

John Wesley, *“The best of all is, God is with us.”*

The World asked the Lord, **“How Much do you love me?”**
And Jesus opened up His arms and said, **“This much.”**

Memory Verse:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

—2 Timothy 4:7