

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8

- What are your expectations for gospel ministry and perhaps especially church planting?

### Structure

In (6) Paul looks around and describes his present experience of ministry

In (7) he looks back and surveys his previous ministry

In (8) he looks forward anticipates his future reward

And so, what Paul provides us with here is three perspectives on his own ministry experience to fuel Timothy's.

### 1. Paul's model ministry experience was sacrificial (6)

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

These are two perspectives then of what ministry life looked like for him.

First, he's being poured out like a drink offering.

Secondly, 'the time for my departure is near'.

### 2. Paul's model ministry experience was completed (7)

Paul's assessment of his own ministry experience was summarised in three metaphors that all regard a task as being completed.

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

- He had fought the good fight.
- He had finished the race.
- He had kept the faith.

- In 1:8 he writes, 'So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God'.
- In 2:3 he writes, 'Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus'.
- In 4:5 he writes, 'But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry'.

### 3. Paul's model ministry experience was expectant (8)

**8** 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.

## Conclusion

What is your ministry experience going to be like?

What's that going to feel like?

- Because it's pouring ourselves out in sacrifice, it's going to hurt.
- Because it's about completing a task that's been set before us, it's about doing the hard yards.
- Because it's about expecting a future reward, it's hopeful.