

**GA:** What do you imagine the end of your life being like? What will your last words be?

**ORT:** But what of the *Xian*? Different are the words of Paul as he neared the end. Triumphant. 30 yrs. after his encounter w/*X*, no regrets. **Phil 1:21** *For to me, to live is X & to die is gain.*

**CXT:** Wished **Tim** same—final words reflect eloquent calmness—only from a settled certainty.

**CIT:** W/an economy of words he not only affirms his own spiritual triumph but also offers forceful motivation for every believer to live a life of faithful service to *X*.

**CIS:** ☉ has a clear plan for each one of His children to finish well.

**PNP:** Finishing well means you will examine your life from 3 perspectives.

**Trans:** So, your life consists of many things – where do I start?

You will need to **live prepared in the present.** Your life could end today—are you ready?

- OT sacrifice. Wine altar base-**Ro12:1** *in view of the mercies of ☉, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy & pleasing to ☉; this is your true worship.*
- Execution he expected—Roman citizens crucified – beheaded.
- Departure *analysis* – 1) unyoke animal (burden), 2) shackles (prisoner), 3) tent ropes (last journey **2 Pet 1:14** *since I know that I will soon lay aside my tent*), & 4) loosening moorings (setting sail to the haven of rest).
- Will not die like others – like **J**. Took up his cross **1 Cor 15:53-55** *For this corruptible body must be clothed w/incorruptibility, & this mortal body must be clothed w/immortality. When this corruptible body is clothed w/incorruptibility, & this mortal body is clothed w/immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, death, is your victory? Where, grave, is your sting?*
- **2 Cor 4:17** *For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.* **Ro 8:18** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing w/the glory that is going to be revealed to us.*

**Trans:** So, your prepared to die—What have you done w/everything that ☉ has given you?

You will need to **look honestly at the past.** Your life since you met **J**—have you been faithful?

- All ☉ asked – he did – no greater satisfaction – no greater way to end – no regrets.
- 1) *agonizomai* – he was in a great spiritual struggle. **1 Tim 6:12.**
- 2) *kalos* – the cause he pursued was noble (good w/o qualification). **Phil 3:8.**
- 3) *dromos* – the need to avoid wandering. Divinely appointed course. **Acts 20:24** *But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course & the ministry I received from the Lord J, to testify to the gospel of ☉'s grace.* **Heb 12:1-2** *Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance & the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run w/endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on J, the author & perfecter of our faith.*
- 4) *dromos* – the need to treasure time (our race is only the time allotted by ☉). **Epimenides.**
- 5) *tereo* – his sacred trust regarding ☉'s Word, the controlling element of all he did.

**William Borden b.** in Chicago 1887, son of a millionaire silver magnate. **16** – trip around world. I have never thought very seriously about being a missionary ... but when I look ahead a few years it seems as though the only thing to do is prepare for the foreign field. Dad rebuffed. Friend – Don't through your life away! "No reserves." **18** – Father died – job. "No retreats." Dec 1912 **25** sails for Cairo, Egypt (Arabic/Islam). 3 months into his stay Borden contacted spinal meningitis – died. "No regrets." Life for *X* was a race & he was pursuing the prize of growing in *X* w/all the zeal he could muster. Epitaph – "Apart from faith in *X*, there is no explanation of such a life."

Trans: So, you're ready to die, you live w/no regrets—But what keeps you going?

You will need to gaze expectantly to the future. How real is heaven (Oz...Sweet)? —HHH 78.

- Laid up, reserve—being safely stored & carefully guarded. Mt 6:20. 1 Tim 6:18-19.
- Borden accomplished none of his planned ministry. But his final assertion of *No regrets* based in the assurance that he had faithfully. Faithful & famous synonymous.
- Paul – no regrets. Had absolute confidence that ☉ had laid up a crown of righteousness.
- *of righteousness* – genitive of apposition. The crown *that is* eternal righteousness – what ☉ declared us to be in salvation, He makes it so in glorification. Js. 1:12 *Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that ☉ has promised to those who love Him; 1 Pet 5:4 & when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*
- *day* – 2 Tim 1:12, 18.

CIS: ☉ has a clear plan for each one of His children to finish well—assess your life from 3 angles.

CEP: Are we called to win the race or to run the race? How does that affect our intention to give 100 percent? Saturday August 10—Pheidippides 494 BC Greeks defeated Persians—Athens to Sparta (2 days 150) Battle of Marathon (Athens) & the marathon (26 miles) *We have won.*

G: You will need to live prepared in the present. Your life could end today—are you ready?