

What Have I Committed to God?

Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, worded 2 Tim. 1:12 in a most interesting way: "I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." I am particularly fascinated by the phrase "He is able to keep what I have committed to Him." Paul had turned his whole body, soul, and efforts over to God and knew that God would keep them safe. What a great example and reminder to each of us. In Light of that, ask yourself the following questions:

- * Have I committed my life to God?
- * Have I committed my family to God?
- * Have I committed my occupation to God?
- * Have I committed my leisure time to God?
- * Have I committed my interests to God?
- * Have I committed my all to God?

Turn it all over to God. He is able to keep everything you give Him and return them with His blessings!

~ Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (via *Bulletin Gold*) ~

Fight, Finish, Fulfill

Second Timothy 4:7 has often been referred to as Paul's valedictory: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." It has also been observed that this statement had something for every group of people in the first century. The idea of fighting the fight appealed to the Roman mind. The concept of finishing the race would have been of interest to the Gentile (Greek) mind. And the thought of keeping the faith would have been attractive to the Hebrew mind. Indeed this verse had (and has) something for everybody – no matter what background or circumstances.

Have you an opponent? Is there something causing you problems? Something trying to ruin your life? Keep fighting against it. Don't give up and let it win. If it knocks you down, get up and keep fighting. Fight the good fight. If you do so, you will be victorious.

Are you in a race? Do you have something you want to accomplish? Do you have goals to be reached? A purpose to achieve? Keep running toward the destination. The course may be difficult and long and you may get weary, but keep pressing on. Finish the race. If you do so, you will win.

Do you have circumstances beyond your control? Are you in a situation that breeds fear, doubt, or uncertainty? Does it sometimes seem hopeless? Don't give in to negative emotions. Maintain a positive outlook. Live in love and hope. Keep the faith. If you do so, you will receive the promise of God.

Fight, finish, fulfill – that's some good advice for all of us.

~ Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (via *Bulletin Digest*) ~

Joy is the echo of Christ living within us.

News & Notes

FAREWELL PARTY: Tomorrow at 12:15 p.m. for David McCoy in the Fox Pepperberry Suites dining area. David's son, Brody will be moving David to a care facility in Tennessee this week. Your presence at this gathering will be appreciated.

NEW ADDRESS: Jenny Rhodes was married in June. The newlyweds address is: Bryan & Jenny Smith, 3201 Marias Drive, Ft. Wayne, IN 46815. Jenny is recuperating from recent knee replacement surgery.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Aug. 5th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's.

LADIES DAY: Next Saturday, Aug. 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Columbiana Church of Christ. Topic: "Let's Taco-Bout GRACE!" Lunch provided. Additional details on the bulletin board.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, Aug. 6th, about noon at the Fellowship Building, followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

GOSPEL MEETING: Aug. 11-13, St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ with Dan Jenkins.

PANTRY: Shampoo and deodorant.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Mike West, Peggy Williams, Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Becky McKitrick, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

THE POWER OF FAITH

When a young shepherd boy bent down and picked up five smooth stones from a flowing brook, the history of a nation changed and a great warrior and king was born. The story is legendary. Every leader, teacher, salesman, soldier and athlete, Christian and non-Christian, knows of it and is inspired by it; the story of David and Goliath.

It is the story of the power of faith; of a young boy who believed beyond the shadow of a doubt that God would be with him. "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (! Samuel17:37). So the youth filled his sling with a stone from Elah's brook and his heart with faith in his God and ran to achieve the victor he knew awaited. Oh! The Power of Faith!

We all face Goliath. We all stand at the creek's edge and gaze upon the immense challenges before us. Our faith is tested in many ways. We can step back in fear and never know the power of faith or we can fill our sling and move forward with the assurance that God will give us the victory.

- Dennis Doughty, *Inscriptions*, (Magnolia Messenger, Kosciusko, MS) -

