



A Good Fight

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by Jack Peeler

Jack and Melinda Peeler serve the Lord on the island of Nukuoro in Micronesia. They dedicated their lives to missions and have since served the Lord on several mission ventures through their married years.

Life always has difficulties. Each field of service has its own struggles. I was thinking of the verse here in 2 Timothy 4:7.

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7

A Good Fight is what I have entitled this. God has called us to be faithful fighters. There is no greater service we can give to our Savior than to be faithful fighters and to finish our course. When you think about this, that is what life is all about: to get out there and fight, to get out there and give out the gospel, to finish the course we are headed on. Paul wrote this in his second letter. Stop and think it though. What the Apostle Paul did was amazing. He is one of my heroes. When you look at Acts 9:1-8, you see the conversion on the Damascus road. The first question he asks is, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?" I was thinking about that. This is a question that each of us needs to ask ourselves each day. "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?"

Now Paul went through a lot of difficulties while serving the Lord. As you go into 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 it tells us this:

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 2 Corinthians 11:24-27

In Acts 16:19, it talks about Paul being in prison and in stocks, being beaten. He sang and praised our Savior. He had such a testimony and witness that even the Philippian jailer got saved. That is how we are to be in our Christian walk. No matter what area we are put in, or what circumstances we are put under, we are supposed to be giving out the gospel to see others receive Christ.

My field of service is very remote. It lacks most modern conveniences most places enjoy. There is no electricity, no car, no way to get off the island until the ship comes. The ship only comes four times a year, and last time it was three months late. It is a struggle and something we are not used to. But

praise the Lord that I can give out the gospel and see people saved. But, I have never faced the things that Paul faced. I have never gone through these issues and struggles that he had to go through, yet look at how faithful he was. God was with Paul every step of the way. Paul simply followed the Lord and did what he should do. He knew God's power in his life. We can all have that same power. God is not different today than he was with Paul. He is the same today and forever. Sometimes we forget that and we get in difficult times and wonder "Where is the Lord?" We sit there and want to do it in our own strength sometimes, but we need to rely on the Lord's strength. Have you thought about Paul's attitude in that? It is because Paul was obedient and kept his focus on finishing his job that the Gentiles were reached with the gospel - that is us! That is because of Paul and his love. A list of attitudes in things we think of would probably fall into the area of Acts 20:24.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24

I do not know about you all, but when I get beaten with a rod or I am shipwrecked or I am hungry, it moves me! So many times we are so self-centered, but we need to be Christ-centered. We are supposed to be giving out the gospel and having a testimony so that others will see Christ through us and receive him as their Lord and Savior.

So many times it is about "Look at me! Me first!" or about the missionary and what I can do. I can do nothing without Christ. I can do all things through Christ. One day we will stand at the judgment seat of Christ. I want to be able to say, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith. I know this is something familiar to all of us, but I think sometimes we forget. We need to be reminded that we are not alone in this life. So many times we get to the field and things go wrong and we think I am out here by myself. No. No matter where I go in this world, Christ is going to be right there beside me. He is the one who will give me the strength, will lift me up, and teach me what I need to do to reach others for Christ. Paul was in prison and he was witnessing. I have thought, "could I do that?" I think we need to be reminded of where we are and what we are doing. Christ is with us, and He will enable us to do the work He has called us to do. Follow Christ. Follow closely. Keep fighting and finish that course. When you look at this verse, ask yourself - "Where is this in my life?"