



# The Real Superbowl

II Timothy 4

## ■ 2 Tim 4:1-22

**1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:**

2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction.

3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

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

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

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.

9 Do your best to come to me quickly,

10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.

15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

21 Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

(NIV)

**■ The Message Bible puts it this way.**

2 Tim 4:1

I can't impress this on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone, living and dead.

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## **Acts 17:31**

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

## **Rom 2:16**

This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

■ 1 Cor 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

# The Bible speaks of judgment in two distinct categories.

- **Category one** has to do with divine judgment of unbelievers, that is, of those persons who have never trusted Jesus Christ for divine forgiveness.
- **Category two** has to do with judgment of believers.

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- **Rev 20:15**

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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■ **2 Cor. 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

■ **2 Tim 4:6** For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my **departure**.

- The word “**departure**” is *analysis* which is used only here in the New Testament. It literally means to “unloose.” The word was used for the “loosing” of a vessel from its moorings or of soldiers “breaking up” camp for departure. Paul was about ready to “strike tent” or “**break camp**,” leave his physical body and leave this temporal earth for the presence of the Lord.

■ II Tim 4:8 now there is in store for me the **crown** of righteousness.

■ Paul says here that a “**crown**” awaits him. This is not *diadema* (diadem), the royal crown, but *stephanos*, the laurel wreath given to the winner of the marathon race.

## ■ 1 Cor 9:25-27

25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a **crown** that will not last; but we do it to get a **crown** that will last forever.

26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

# Conclusion

## The real Superbowl

1. Paul lived his life in such a way that he understood he was on a journey and all that he did would one day stand before the Lord.
2. Paul understood he was in a race that sometimes his body would be in agony in order to win.

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