

Series: Striving Together to Finish the Course

HOW TO FAITHFULLY FINISH THE COURSE

2 TIMOTHY 4 & OTHERS

Text: 2 Timothy 4:7

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Introduction:

We read in the word of God of many who fled for various reasons and some who failed to finish their course keeping the faith.

Note:

Gen 12 - Abram left because of famine

1 Kings 19 - Elijah ran from Jezebel

Jonah 1:1-3 - Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord

Luke 15 - Prodigal left home and his father and the fellowship of his family

John 21 - Peter went fishing and then took the disciples with him

Acts 13 - John Mark fled after contention

2 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Why did these individuals flee?

1. DISTANCE

From

- A. Person (Christ)
- B. People (Fellow-Christians)
- C. Place (Church)

Remember distance leads to

2. DISTRACTIONS

- A. Abram was distracted by a shortage (Famine)
- B. Elijah was distracted because of being scared

- C. Jonah was distracted because of self-will
- D. Prodigal was distracted because of selfishness
- E. Peter was distracted because of being somber
- F. John Mark was distracted by strife
- G. Demas was distracted because of the secular

Remember Distance leads to Distractions and
Distractions lead to:

3. DISCOURAGEMENT AND DEPARTURE

- A. Abram's choice resulted in Lot's demise
- B. Elijah's choice resulted in him being replaced
- C. Jonah's choice resulted in others great loss
- D. The Prodigal's choice led to the hog pen
- E. Peter's choice led to leading others astray
- F. John Mark and Demas' choice resulted in lost opportunity, blessings and fellowship.

Close:

How can we faithfully finish our course?

Decide - Choose you this day

Draw Nigh to God

James 4:8

*⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts,
ye double minded.*