

What Was The Basis Of Paul's Confidence?

II Tim. 4:6-8

Introduction

- Paul in prison awaiting death – secular history says at the hands of Nero in mid 60's AD.
- In prison, no just cause, deserted by his companions, yet not down or depressed.
- As we read some of his last words, we see that he had a confident expectation and anticipation of an eternal home in heaven with God.
- Look at Paul's confidence, and the basis for that confidence.

I. Paul's Confidence Expressed...

- "...there is laid up for me a crown of life..."
 - Eternal life, a home in heaven, Paul expresses utmost confidence...
 - Not only to himself, but to all that love his appearing.
 - If Christ, the righteous judge were to return tonight, would we love his appearing?
 - We can have the same confidence that Paul manifested.
 - There is... (v-8)
 - II Cor. 5:1,2,4,6
 - Phil. 1:21-23 – to die is gain (cf. I Jn. 5:13; Titus 1:2)
- That confidence was not based on...
 - Universalism. (Matt. 7:13-14; Matt. 25:41)
 - The false doctrine of "once saved, always saved" (I Cor. 9:27; 10:12; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 3:12-14; 4:11; Js. 5:19-20; II Pet. 2:20-22)
 - Automatic forgiveness. (I Jn. 1:8-2:2)

II. What Was The Basis Of Paul's Confidence?

- The faithfulness of God. (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:16-18; II Tim. 1:12; II Tim. 4:8; II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:11)
- His own manner of life:
 - **"I have fought a good fight." (v-7)**
 - Against false teaching. (I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 4:1-4; Acts 20:28-29)
 - Sin in the church. (I Cor.)
 - Sin and temptation in his own life. (I Cor. 9:27)
 - He exhorted others to do the same. (II Tim. 2:3-4; I Tim. 6:12; II Cor. 10:4-5; Eph. 6:10ff)
 - Can we say the same?
 - **"I have finished my course." (v-7)**
 - To finish, one must first begin. (Acts 22:16)
 - Must run with purpose. (I Cor. 9:26; II Pet. 1:9)
 - Must strive lawfully. (II Tim. 2:5; Col. 3:17; I Pet. 4:11; II Jn. 9)
 - Must lay aside all hindrances. (Heb. 12:1-2; Lk. 8:14)
 - If Jesus were to return today, could we say "I have finished my course?" or would it be asked – Gal. 5:7?
 - **"I have kept the faith" (v-7)**
 - Paul had maintained his belief in God and his promises...
 - Paul had guarded and defended the word of God. (I Tim. 4:1; 6:20-21; Phil. 1:17)
 - » In the face of tribulations. (II Cor. 11:23-33; 12:10)
 - » Rather than riches, popularity, position (Phil. 3:4ff; I Tim. 6:17; II Tim. 4:17-18)
 - » In faithful service. (I Cor. 4:1-2)
 - If Jesus came tonight, could we say, I have kept the faith?