

**Title: Finish Strong**

**Text:** 1 Timothy 4:6-8

*(Rev 2:10) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*

*(Mat 10:22) And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

**What's the Point:** Repentance is an interesting word that is often overlooked. We forget this is supposed to be a permanent change. When we are convicted of sin in an area of our life, we are to repent of it, never to dabble in it again. We must realize that we have made a life long change. Christianity is not a life style we put on, it's an inner transformation, brought about by us seeing God for who He is, what He is, what He has done, and what He has commanded. It's as if we were living in a dream, and now we have awakened to reality. With this awakening, comes a change in every facet of our life. Once we have been awakened, we should not seek to go back to sleep and dreaming. Ignoring it will not change the end results. Be different from the world, live it, teach it.

*(2 Tim 4:10) For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

REPENT'ANCE, n.

1. Sorrow for any thing done or said; the pain or grief which a person experiences in consequence of the injury or inconvenience produced by his own conduct.
2. In theology, the pain, regret or affliction which a person feels on account of his past conduct, because it exposes him to punishment. This sorrow proceeding merely from the fear of punishment, is called legal repentance, as being excited by the terrors of legal penalties, and it may exist without an amendment of life.

3. Real penitence; sorrow or deep contrition for sin, as an offense and dishonor to God, a violation of his holy law, and the basest ingratitude towards a Being of infinite benevolence. This is called evangelical repentance, and is accompanied and followed by amendment of life.

Repentance is a change of mind, or a conversion from sin to God.

Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. (2 Cor.7:10 Matt. 3:8)

Repentance is the relinquishment of any practice, from the conviction that it has offended God.

*(Prov 26:11) As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.*

*(2 Pet 2:22) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

- I. **Don't Look Back:** (Luke 9:62) *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*
  - a. **Deny the Deity of Christ:** When we deter back to the world we acknowledge that the world is true, and God is a fraud. **You forget who He is.** (Tit 1:16) *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.* (Heb 6:6)
  - b. **Your vision is distorted:** You see things from the wrong perspective.
  - c. **You Mock God:** You forget the repercussions. (Gal 6:7) *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
- II. **Don't forget the Sacrifice:** (Rom 5:8) *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* (Matt 27:26-66) **You forget what He did. You were a slave to sin, owned by satan.** (1 Cor 6:19) *What? know ye not that your*

body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. **Jesus bought you back.**

- III. **Die to Self: (Ps 116:15)** (Gal 2:20) *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal 5:24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
- a. **(Rom 12:1-2) Sometimes it crawls off the altar.**
  - b. **Bind yourself with the chords of Love. (Ps 118:27)**
  - c. **Commit Daily: It is Not a ONE time battle:** (Luke 9:23)  
*And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his **cross daily**, and follow me.*
  - d. **Die to Self and Be Filled with the Spirit:** (Eph 5:18)
  - e. **Don't play the "Rights" game:**  
*Illus: The Word "Laodacea" means "Peoples Rights"*  
Dead people don't have any control over themselves once their dead. Jesus gave you life, you owe Him everything.

IV. **Keep your Eyes on the Prize:**

- a. **Christ's Reward is Worth It:** (1 Cor 9:24) *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.***
- b. **Keep Serving Faithfully:** (1 Pet 4:10) *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

(Mt 25:14,15) For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Lu 19:12-13 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

1 Cor 4:1-2 Steward is to be found faithful.

1 Cor 12:4-11 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.  
5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.  
6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.  
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.  
8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;  
9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;  
10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:  
11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Ro 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us,

whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the **proportion of faith**; (Faith cometh by hearing)

Or ministry, let us wait on our **ministering**: (Be Faithful & Focussed)

or he that teacheth, on **teaching**; (Be the best, Learn your students so you can be the best teacher)

Or he that exhorteth, on **exhortation**: (How can I add value)

he that giveth, let him do it with **simplicity**; (With out the need for public praise)

he that ruleth, with **diligence**; (Don't be lazy and take advantage)

he that showeth mercy, with **cheerfulness**. (Right Attitude)

### **Right Attitude**

1Co 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

- c. **The Devil want to Discourage you so you will Quit:**  
(Phil 3:14) *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* (Heb 12:1-2 Luke 21:28 Titus 2:13)

(Rev 2:10) *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*