

## Conversation Starters

- Have you invited God into your life?
- Have you had times when you’ve unintentionally neglected His work in your life?

## Discuss

**Finishing well is about living your life in such a way that you invited God into it and to work through it. If we want to endure and live a life that reflects that, Paul gives us some helpful counsel. First, he tells us that we are soldiers. As a soldier, suffering is to be expected and endured, and we’re reminded that our single most important focus is to God and His work.**

*“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.” ([2 Timothy 2:3-4, NLT](#))*

- Do you expect to suffer in life?
- What is your mindset and attitude when enduring suffering?
- How are you keeping focused on God and your service to Him?

**Paul follows this up by telling us to be athletes. A true athlete lives by integrity and discipline. Winning only matters and happens if done in the right way, and by investing in the training it takes to compete. If we want to live like Jesus, we need to train like Jesus.**

*“And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules.” ([2 Timothy 2:5, NLT](#))*

*“...everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher” ([Luke 6:40, NIV](#))*

- Who are you training to be like?
- Do you have regular spiritual disciplines?
- Who are you when no one is watching?

**Paul’s final example is for us to be like a farmer. Honoring God and making a difference with our lives takes hard work so we must be willing to put the effort in to finish well.**

*“And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor.” ([2 Timothy 2:6, NLT](#))*

- Do you embrace work, even when it’s hard?
- Is there any work you’re neglecting to do?
- Do you give your best effort to God, or give effort grudgingly?

## Next Steps

*“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed...”* ([2 Timothy 2:15, NLT](#))

**Endurance, discipline and hard work is what it takes to finish well. Our goal is to be able to stand before God without shame, because we lived a life worth living. Spend some time reflecting on these questions:**

- Do you want to finish well?
- Do you want to stand before God unashamed of the life you’ve led?

## [Take the Spiritual Gifts Test](#)

**Nov. 18:** [The Prophets: Big Picture Bible Study](#)

**Nov. 21:** [Habitat for Humanity](#) & [Second Harvest Food Bank](#) Serve Day

## Continued Reading

2 Timothy 2:[3-7](#), [15](#); [Luke 6:40](#); [1 Timothy 4:7](#).

## Prayer

God, thank you for being present in our lives and rooting for us in all we do. We want to honor you with our one and only life, and stand before you unashamed of how we lived it. Give us strength and help us endure, to be disciplined and resolve to work hard in all we do and in all circumstances of life as we strive to do that.