

A Transformed Walk: enjoying personal devotions

Bible Reading

Reading: 2 Tim 3:10-4:8

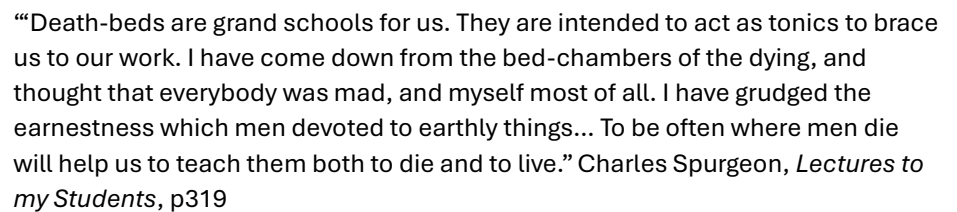
Paul writes from the finish line: 4:7-8

“I have fought the good fight” see also 1 Tim 2:18, 6:12

“I have finished the race” see also Acts 20:24, 1 Cor 9:24-27, Phil. 2:16; 3:13–14

“I have kept the faith”

“There is in store for me the crown of righteousness”



“Death-beds are grand schools for us. They are intended to act as tonics to brace us to our work. I have come down from the bed-chambers of the dying, and thought that everybody was mad, and myself most of all. I have grudged the earnestness which men devoted to earthly things... To be often where men die will help us to teach them both to die and to live.” Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to my Students*, p319

1. Knowing

Timothy *knows*

Paul 3:10-13 (cf Acts 16:1-5)

‘those from whom he learned’ 3:14 (2 Tim 1:5)

Holy Scriptures 3:14-15a

Christ Jesus 3:15b

All Scripture is God-breathed

See also 2 Pet. 1:21, Heb 3:7-8

Discuss how might we lose sight of the relational aspect of Scripture in personal devotions?
How do we keep knowing God central? (see John 5:39)

2. Growing

The servant of God grows – taught, rebuked, corrected, trained and equipped for good work

God's breathed out word is "profitable" (ESV)

Teaching, Rebuking, Correcting, Training

Thoroughly equipping for every good work

Known for her good deeds
such as bringing up children,
showing hospitality, washing
the feet of the Lord's people,
helping those in trouble and
devoting herself to all kinds of
good deeds.

1 Tim 5:10

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

2 Tim 4:2

for every good work" 2 Tim 2:21 and Tit 3:1.

In contrast to "unprofitable" false teaching: 1 Tim 1:3-4, 4:11-7, 1 Tim 6:3-6, 1 Tim 6:20-21, 2 Tim 1:13, 2:2, 8-10, 14-17, 23-26, 3:14-4:4. Titus 3:8-11.

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God having a **form of godliness but denying its power** 2 Tim 3:2,5.

They **claim to know God but by their actions they deny him**. They are detestable, disobedient and **unfit for doing anything good**. Titus 1:16

Discuss: What good works do you see growing in your life as you read God's breathed-out word? What is hindering/what would help you?

Practical suggestions:

Growing

Use a system, e.g. M'Cheyne reading plan

Knowing

Don't use a system

"If such an abundance of good thoughts comes to us we ought to disregard the other petitions, make room for such thoughts, listen in silence, and under no circumstances obstruct them. The Holy Spirit himself preaches here, and one word of his sermon is far better than a thousand of our prayers...honour him by letting go of this written scheme; be still and listen to him who can do better than you can." Martin Luther, *A simple way to pray*

To one young man, M'Cheyne wrote, "you read your Bible regularly, of course, but do try and understand it, and still more to feel it....Turn the bible into prayer. Thus, if you were reading the first Psalm, spread the bible on the chair before you and kneel and pray. Oh, God, give me the blessedness of this man...This is the best way of knowing the meaning of the bible and of learning to pray." Andrew Alexander Bonar, *The Life and Remains of the Rev. Robert Murray McCheyne*, p48