

Living Above the Fray

Life in Three Tenses

2 Timothy 4:6-8 & 16-18

2 Timothy 2:1-5

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Present V. 6

The role of the “drink offering.”

Exodus 29:41

⁴¹ Sacrifice the other lamb at twilight with the same grain offering and its drink offering as in the morning—a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the LORD by fire.

Presented at the end of the sacrificial process

Present V. 6

- *Drink-offering*

Since this wine was gradually poured out, was an offering, and was the final act of the entire sacrificial ceremony, it pictured most adequately the gradual ebbing away of Paul's life, the fact that he was presenting this life to God as an offering, and the idea that while he viewed his entire career of faith as "a living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1; cf. 15:16), he looked upon the present stage of this career as being the final sacrificial act.

Present V. 6

1. How do you view your life?
 - Excellence (talent) on loan from God. . .
 - *MY* life. . .
 - The life that God has given me that I might enjoy him and glorify him, regardless of the circumstances?

Past V.7

- The grand fight, I have fought

It had been a fight against Satan; against the principalities and powers, the world-rulers of this darkness in the heavenlies; against Jewish and pagan vice and violence; against Judaism among the Galatians; against fanaticism among the Thessalonians; against contention, fornication, and litigation among the Corinthians; against incipient Gnosticism among the Ephesians and Colossians; against fightings without and fears within; and last but not least, against the law of sin and death operating within his own heart.

Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953/2001). (Vol. 4, p. 315).
Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

- The grand fight, I have fought
- The race I have finished

Galatians 2:2

I went in response to a and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

- The faith I have kept

Future V.8

- The crown “of righteousness”
 - Procured *by* and Received *from* Jesus
 - Possible secondary application

1 Thessalonians 2:19

¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

The primary focus

16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:16-18

To Go . . .

How has your commitment to Jesus impacted your past?

How is Jesus making a difference in the present?

How does being with Jesus in the future impact your perspective today?