

TOPIC: Finishing Well

Brothers and Sisters, there is a common goal we all have: “to finish well”. This applies to both those that have gone before you in the Rapture, and YOU, the Tribulation Saint that has come to faith in Jesus Christ now. The timeline for our finish line may look different, but the principles of how we are to live are very similar. First, a qualifier, to finish well, you must be born-again, and willing to do all you can to help others too. You must be a part of the solution by helping others.

Jesus Is the Only Way

Finishing well means that you recognize that belief in the saving work of Jesus Christ is the **ONLY** way to God. This is a great mission opportunity for you now! It means that you will teach others, help them understand the things that you now know. As you do so, be prepared if you hear a different Gospel influencing someone you are sharing with. You must actively resist and reject it, bringing TRUTH to the people you are influencing. People cannot be saved by a fake Jesus, nor a false religious system, nor the promise of ascendance or works of technology, nor in works of any kind. In Acts 4:12 we find Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking before the rulers and elders of his day, testifying THIS about Jesus: **"AND THERE IS SALVATION IN NO ONE ELSE; FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN AMONG MEN BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED."** When anyone tells you to bow to the Antichrist, or to conform to the “common good of mankind”, or to believe that there are multiple paths to God, know that this is deceitful and contradicts the clear teachings found in the Word of God. Don’t let others be persuaded by a false religious system. **There is only ONE WAY to God and that is through the atonement and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who paid the price for your sins and offers forgiveness and correct standing before the GOD of the universe for all eternity.** So, one way you can finish well is to help others understand the TRUTH of the Word of God and their NEED for Christ so that you can hopefully teach them that Jesus is the only way and lead them to Christ. You must be faithful to this mission.

Read the Word of God – The Bible

Finishing well means that you will read the Word of God and handle its instruction and teachings with great care! You must be a student of the Word of God and **study the Bible as a TOP PRIORITY**. Whether it is one of the included Bibles located on this Rapture Kit USB drive, or one downloaded on your mobile phone, tablet, or used online: it is generally equal. But as a word of caution, try to get your resources from offline sources as soon as possible. That’s why we put so many of the resources on a USB drive, so it is portable and does not require an Internet connection where you can be tracked. By the way, some translations are better than others, but you may not have a choice. Your loved ones may have left a Bible in plain view for you to discover at the appointed time. Don’t neglect looking in the bookshelf or bedroom nightstands. Perhaps, the Bible includes a letter of care and concern for your eternal destiny—longing for you to be in Heaven with them. **THE DECISION TO CHOOSE OR REJECT CHRIST IS IRREVERSIBLE WHEN WE DIE.** And just note how urgent and sobering it is that **YOU HELP OTHERS CHOOSE NOW AND CHOOSE WELL**, because they (like you) don’t have any guarantee that they’ll be alive tomorrow. With the cataclysmic judgments coming on the Earth and with so many inhabitants of the Earth perishing, **it is URGENT that they choose Jesus and DO SO THIS VERY MINUTE!**

Study the Word of God. It says in 2 Timothy 2:15 to: **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”** Remember: the TRUTH is found in the Word of God, and the LIE is found in **all other religious writings**. Period. There are no exceptions! You have been deceived long enough...now you must take responsibility to embrace the REAL TRUTH...I urge you to come into the light of the Gospel and receive forgiveness.

Test All Things

Finishing well means that you will **test all things by comparing anything you see, read, or experience to the Bible**. The Bible is our **SOLE AUTHORITY** for what is true and good and acceptable! As we’ve discussed, the deceit, the lies, the false beliefs, and solutions offered by the Antichrist and the world system are going to be VERY POWERFUL, VERY PERSUASIVE, and most certainly OPPOSED TO JESUS CHRIST AND THE BIBLE AND THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL.

We see in Acts 17:10-11 the pattern for how to resist LIES and how to test **ALL** things. It says: “The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the

Jews.¹¹ Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily [to see] whether these things were so.**" There is a parallel to this found in 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22: "**But examine everything [carefully;]** hold fast to that which is good;²² abstain from every form of evil."

Essentially, Brothers and Sisters, in all the things that you witness going on during the Tribulation, where false signs and miracles are occurring to great fanfare and acclaim, just remember ONE THING! If what you personally see or what you are told, or what you are asked to do is contrary to the Word of God...you **MUST AVOID** all such influences...even unto potential imprisonment, punishment, or maybe even death. We've already covered the subject that taking the Mark of the Beast leads to eternal damnation and once someone takes the Mark it is irreversible... **The Word of God is very, very clear that it is a point of no return.** So, if someone has the Mark and tells you: "it's okay", or "don't worry about it", or "this doesn't affect your eternal standing", or more directly: "that this **IS** how you will be saved!" It is quite possible that they may present a **twisted interpretation** of Ephesians 1:13 "...you were **sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit** of promise..." and imply that this Seal is the same thing as the Mark of the Beast – a **COUNTERFEIT SEAL**. You will be confronted with many arguments to take the Mark...and they summarize all these false reassurances to: "**JUST JOIN US...**" *Well, that is a deceit and lie because it contradicts the Bible. It's better to die as a martyr as a Follower of Christ **at that very moment** than to go along with misinformation or peer pressure or threats that push you into taking the Mark of the Beast. You must stand strong in all things. Knowing the Bible is critical.*

Some of the arguments you will hear might also involve members of another Church. They may say to you: "Taking the Mark is safe. To prove it they may say to you: "We have just successfully enrolled the members of XYZ Church just down the street." **BEWARE** of such statements. Remember, you are comparing what someone says to you with the Bible. You know that taking the Mark leads to great torment and eternal separate from God. Which source of truth, then, will you believe? Will you believe the enforcers of the Mark or the Word of God? This should be an obvious and easy decision. But, sadly, some might be persuaded to go along if other so-called "Christians" have also taken the Mark. But **YOU MUST RESIST** this! I'm sure these could be people you have spent a lifetime getting to know. I can imagine your personal heartbreak seeing people you know taking the Mark. But these people are compromised, they are weak, they are likely not even truly saved, they do not have evidence of the Holy Spirit living in them: **for they did not hear His voice of warning!** They do not understand the consequences of ignoring Scripture. So, Brothers and Sisters—**you must be prepared to STAND AGAINST anything that contradicts the Word of God.** Even if you are told that other "Christians" are complying. **YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.**

Compare what you **SEE** and **HEAR** with the Word of God. If it's consistent with the Bible, it's authentic and trustworthy. If there is partial truth, that is the same as no truth and is a deception. The enemy mixes in "enough truth" that it initially seems okay. Just know that most of the things you'll be seeing, hearing, and reading about are cleverly designed to pull you further into error. **BE A GOOD BEREAN. EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES TO CONFIRM WHAT YOU ARE TOLD.** Carefully help others by sharing what you have learned. Quote the Bible if you can—to oppose the false teachings you and others will run into. The Holy Spirit will help you!

YOU MUST PREVAIL. Test all things...it is not a suggestion. To finish well, this is an essential skill you must develop!

Put on the Whole Armor of God

Finishing well means that we protect ourselves from the attacks of the enemy; to stand firm and to resolutely prevail, using the tools that the Lord gave to every believer. We find the discussion about the **FULL ARMOR OF GOD** mentioned in Ephesians 6:10-17 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.¹¹ **Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].¹³ **THEREFORE, TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND FIRM.**¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,¹⁵ and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**;¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil [one].¹⁷ And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Look at what Paul instructs us to do with the Armor of God in verse

18: ^{“18} With all prayer and petition **PRAY AT ALL TIMES in the Spirit, and with this in view, BE ON THE ALERT with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,**”

It's almost as though these instructions were not just written to the Church before the Rapture, but for **your direct benefit, RIGHT NOW!** **The full armor of God is going to help YOU to prevail, to stand firm, to resist the schemes of Satan, the rulers, powers, and world forces that are opposed to the Lord and to HIS REDEEMED.** Of special note is the shield of faith that helps us deflect and extinguish the “flaming arrows” of the enemy. *These arrows take many forms, but their target is to weaken the FOUNDATION OF YOUR FAITH, your understanding of TRUTH, ability to RESIST the pull, seduction, and numbing pleasures of the World System.* **It is essential to view the whole armor of God as a daily and perhaps even an hourly discipline! This is not a once-in-a-lifetime event, but a DISCIPLINE that continuously supports your ACTIVE resistance to evil influences in the days of the Tribulation.**

Contend Earnestly for the Faith

Finishing well means we earnestly contend for the faith. Each believer in Jesus Christ is unique and distinct. There is only one You. We each have various gifts and abilities, including various levels of responsibility and resources. But we have this in common: we—the Believers in Jesus Christ—are all accountable to align with His purposes for this Earth and to play our specific role and function in the Body of Christ. Having a missional focus, a heart that is tender and inclined towards love and service is one of the best ways that we can contend for the faith. Look at what Jude 1:3 says: “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing **that you CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH which was once for all handed down to the saints.**”

This earnestness, this intentionality, is a part of who we are as Christ followers. The world doesn't think this way. It's clear that evil begets evil desires, which begets a multitude of sinful behavior that is the very opposite of how we need to live our lives. Especially during the Tribulation. **What sets us apart is a higher calling and perspective that allows us to see beyond our circumstances towards a common inheritance in our Lord's impending Millennial Kingdom and our eventual Eternal State with Him.** WE AIM FOR THAT! We aim for eternal fellowship with the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS and with each other as Brothers and Sisters. Together, we are the forever family of God! It will be so amazing to meet you one day!

Remember, contending for the faith is a reflection of who we are in Christ and should honor those that have faithfully gone before you. You should desire to please Jesus Christ first, but also imagine being reunited one day with your family that are now in Heaven. You should want your kids, your siblings, your parents, and extended relatives (past and present), your friends and work colleagues to be proud that you finished well.

In our final segment, I'd like to speak more personally to you now. This will be **ME** speaking to **YOU**.