

LOOKING BACK OR CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

II Timothy 4:1-8

In our text this morning Paul comes to the finish Line of his life on earth. He – now - is looking back!

I. THE UTMOST PRIORITIES v.1

Five specific commands now ring out like military orders.

1. *Preach the word!*
2. *Be ready in season and out of season.*
3. *Convince,*
4. *rebuke,*
5. *exhort,*

All of these priorities are to be carried out in a climate of “longsuffering”.

II. EAR TICKLER Vs. 3-4

These priorities become more difficult because of a strange complexity called “*itching ears.*”

Verse 5 present every potential ear-tickler with a preventive 4 point checklist:

1. *be watchful in all things,*
2. *endure afflictions,*
3. *do the work of an evangelist,*
4. *fulfill your ministry.*

III. LOOKING BACK

Paul does a wonderful thing for you and me in verse 6

Two vivid metaphors leap forth:

1. First, he sees himself as “*a drink offering*” about to be poured out.
2. The second metaphor of his death is “*the time of my departure*”

Like a fighter -

Like a runner -

Paul is looking ahead to the moment when earthly work is done and a heavenly existence is begun.