

2 Timothy 4: 1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **Preach the word**; be prepared **in season** and **out of season**; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

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.

Proverbs 4

Children, listen to me. Listen, and grow wise, for I speak the truth—don't turn away.

For I, too, was once a child, tenderly loved by my mother as if an only child, and the companion of my father.

He told me never to forget his words. "If you follow them," he said, "you will have a long and happy life."

"Learn to be wise," he said, "and develop good judgment and common sense!"

Cling to wisdom—she will protect you. Love her—she will guard you.

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do!

If you exalt wisdom, she will exalt you.

Hold her fast, and she will lead you to great honor; she will place a beautiful crown upon your head.

My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life.

I would have you learn this great fact: **that a life of doing right is the wisest life there is.**

If you live that kind of life, you will not limp, or stumble as you run.

Carry out my instructions; don't forget them, for they will lead you to real living.

The good man walks along in the **ever-brightening light of God's favor; the dawn gives way to morning splendor**, while the evil man gropes and stumbles in the dark.

Listen, child of mine, to what I say. Listen carefully. Keep these thoughts ever in mind; let them penetrate deep within your heart, for they will mean **real life** for you and **radiant health**.

Look straight ahead; don't even turn your head to look aside. Watch your step. Stick to the path and be safe. Don't step sideways. Pull back your foot from danger.

Prayer of the Faithful

For my dad, Edward, that God may welcome him into the peace of His kingdom and grant him eternal rest, we pray to the Lord. (Raise your hand a little bit to invite everyone to respond.)

Lord hear our prayer

For all the deceased members of my family, especially my mother, Joan, and her siblings Ann and George, Jack and Linda, Bill, and her parents Catherine and William. For Jay Koonz and for Laura Lahs Cochran and for my father's parents Edward and Mary, and all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, that God may bring them into the fullness of His light, we pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

For all those who mourn, that the Lord will comfort them in their grief and fill them with His peace, we pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

For all the caregivers who accompany the sick and the dying, that God may bless their generosity and strengthen them, we pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

For those in our communities who are in need. Grant them strength, provision and hope in their struggles, we pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

For all of us gathered here today, that we may live our lives with greater compassion, gratitude, and love, inspired by the love and lifelong service of my dad, we pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer