



From the desk of Ronnie Basden

Finishing Strong

The scripture that we find in Luke 14:28-30 talks about planning: *“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sixtieth not down first, and counted the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”*

We must plan carefully what we are going to do with our lives. You see, if we fail to plan, we will fail to finish strong.

There were three men that started out in seminary in 1947. The first was one Chuck Templeton. He started out as a great speaker and a great preacher. But when he came out of the seminary in 1949, he came out as an agnostic. He left the ministry and denied Christ. He went on to have a notable career in radio/television/newspaper as a columnist. In his lifetime, the one-time preacher even wrote articles against Christianity and God. He died in 2001 with Alzheimer’s disease. According to what is known about the way he lived, he went to Hell. He did not finish strong.

The second man that went to seminary in 1947, Bron Clifford, became a great preacher and evangelist. But he got caught up in the things of the world. By 1959, he had lost his ministry, his family, his health, and his life. He died at the age of 35 with cirrhosis of the liver. According to what is known about his finish, he went to Hell. He did not finish strong.

Billy Graham was the third man that entered the seminary in 1947. As we look at his life, we can see that he stayed true to the faith. He is America’s most admired evangelist. Billy Graham is finishing strong.

The Scripture text that was selected is about starting and finishing strong. The passage presents the danger of not being able to finish what you start. Chuck Templeton and Bron Clifford were strong starters, but poor finishers.

Where do you fit in? Have you planned a good start that you might have a strong finish?

If we look in the Old Testament at the life of Daniel, we can see that at early age, he stood firm in his belief toward God. In his middle-aged years, he was still going strong. Finally in his latter years, he proved to have a strong finish in the faith.

From New Testament accounts, Paul was one of the greatest apostles to ever have lived here on earth. From the time he came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior, he fought hard for what he knew to be true. He had a strong finish.

Can we be like Paul and, when the time comes for that strong finish, say this?

“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” (II Timothy 4:7-9 NIV).

I am looking forward to a strong finish!

God Bless you!

Ronnie Basden

Ephesians 2:10 “One Man Can Make A Difference”

Sept. 17th and 18th, 2010

Fall Advance

Band of Brothers

Guest Speaker: Nate Larkins