

**Objective: to exhort every believer to be a 'finisher' of all that has been assigned to him or her.**

31 December 2019  
NLBC a.m.

## **Becoming A Finisher Like Christ**

John 4:34; John 5:36; Gen. 2:2; John 19:30;  
2 Tim. 4:7

### **Introduction**

As we come to the finish of 2019, we can look back at the year and see how we have 'finished' this last year—not on the basis of simply 'spending the currency of time,' still breathing, but in accomplishing all that He has given us to accomplish.

### **We Have A Life Assignment**

God has called every believer to fulfil a particular destiny or life assignment. He holds us responsible for completion of our part of our partnership with Him. Eph. 4:1; 1 Thes. 1:11; Heb. 3:1,2. We will give an account. Rom. 14:12. The days go by so rapidly. Days turn into weeks, weeks turn into months and soon the year's end is at our 'door.' Have we moved further in fulfilling our own unique calling and assignment? "Well **done!** Matt. 25:23. The Master does not say, "Well **started!**" Many people start and then don't finish as God intended.

*You will only feel a 'sense of accomplishment' in life, if you truly **accomplish or complete something.***

Prov. 26:14 says, "As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed."

Prov. 18:9 says, “One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.”

Prov. 21:25-26 says, “The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.”

Heb. 6:12 says, “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

Most people would not consider themselves lazy or slothful...however, there are levels of laziness and slothfulness. Parents are meant to teach their children ‘to work’ and ‘to finish what they have started.’ If they do it all themselves, they rob their children both in their natural lives and their spiritual lives.

### **How Do We Learn To Finish and Finish Well?**

To become a good ‘finisher,’ we must:

- Start – Zech. 4:10
- Embrace hardship, opposition, exhaustion, failure, misunderstanding, and ignorance – 2 Cor. 6:4-10; Prov. 24:10
- Forgive – Col. 3:13
- Keep the ‘fire burning’ Prov. 26:20 NKJV
- Grow in your revelation of His calling on your life – 1 Cor. 2:9-11
- Recognise your own ‘excuse-making’ keeps you from finishing – don’t allow anything or anyone to keep you from fully discovering what is your assignment and fulfilling it! Mt. 8:21
- Persevere to the end – Paul said he **finished** his course. 2 Tim.4:7

Believers learn to be ‘faithful in small or little things.’ Luke 16:10; Matt. 25:21 says, “His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'”

### A Finisher Checklist:

- Are you a faithful communicator? Do you respond to others in a timely manner?
- Are you a faithful giver of time, ability and money?
- Are you a consistent lover of everyone in your world? Are you still 'looking to be loved' like everyone in this world? 2 Cor. 5:15.
- Are you faithful to appreciate and thank others?
- Are you faithful in reading your Bible and praying?
- Are you faithful in 'going the second mile' with others in your workplace, in your family, and His house...serving and laying down your life for others with joy?
- Are you faithful to connect and build relationships with others? Do you easily 'let go' or drift away from maintaining relationships?
- Do you find excuses easily coming to mind where something more might be asked of you? i.e. time, weariness, work, "I just don't feel 'up to it.'"
- Are you merely an 'attender' of services where church is concerned? How often do you **significantly** engage with others in the family of God? What are your excuses for not doing so? Would He be o.k. with those excuses?
- Are you faithful in your home to help with lots of little tasks, or do you simply let others do most of the work? Do you serve with joy or do you serve begrudgingly? Can you run a Hoover, do the washing up, take out the trash, hang out clothes, wash the car, go get some few things from the shops when you are tired? Do you secretly do a lot of little things to help our without giving public notice that 'I did \_\_\_\_\_.' Some people want public credit for all that they do...which means they were doing it for affirmation...not simply because it needed to be done and they are a willing and helpful servant of others.
- Do you struggle to volunteer to help? If so, why? If your life is not your own, who does it belong to?

- Are you quickly ‘out the door’ after services because you got what you wanted or needed or ‘ticked the box’ of attendance? 2 Cor. 4:10-12.
- Are you a ‘watcher’ or a worker? Some people can easily watch others work and feel no urge to assist.
- Are you faithful to do your best with the responsibilities you have been given in the home and in the workplace and in His house? Often, we may find ourselves with a ‘critical eye’ of what others have failed to do or failed to do with excellence.

### **Wisdom for Finishing**

Our life-mission begins with Christ, is sustained by our deeply rooted relationship with Him and we are enabled to finish by His wisdom and help. Heb. 11:2 NKJV He is the *author* and the *finisher...the One who enables to maintain our faith to complete our mission.*

2 Pet. 1:5-11 says, “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is short-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”