**Doing Whatever it Takes**

II Timothy 4:7-8

**Fact**:

*“Success is not based on where you start,*

*it's where you* ***finish.”***

**A.)** **I have fought the good fight.**

 **Fact:** Life’s battles are not confined to others; they also

 **occur** in our personal lives.

 **Fact:** The truth is that from the beginning of life to the end, we

 are all in a **battle**.

 **Fact:** But of all the battles that we must fight, Jesus taught that the

 most difficult one is the **inner** battle.

**B.)** **I have finished the race.**

 **Question:** Was Paul a winner?

 **Answer:** In some **respects** he may be the second most influential

 person who ever lived - second only to his Lord.

 **Question:** Was life easy for Paul?

 **Answer:** Hardly. He faced many **tests** along the way.

 **Fact:** People who are truly **Successful** in life always face tests

 --and champions face the most difficult tests of all.

**Truth to remember:**

You've heard that it's not what happens to you that counts,

but **how** you handle what happens to you.

**C.) I have kept the faith.**

 **Question:** Why does Paul look back on such a life as a success?

 **Answer:** Here is his secret. He was **successful** because

 he kept the faith.

 **Fact:** It is easy to lose your faith in the bad times, but it is just

 as **easy** to lose faith in the good times.

There is a clear strain of scriptural teaching that indicates that there is a reward to those who are faithful--a crown of life that will be bestowed on the last day to those who, like Paul,***“have fought the good fight, have finished the race, have kept the faith.”***