



LOVE SO AMAZING

2 Tim. 4:6-8

2022 THEME

2 Tim. 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have **fought a good fight**, I have **finished my course**, I have **kept the faith**:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing**.

Our theme for 2022 is...

LOVE SO AMAZING

For the last two weeks, we considered “LOVE SO AMAZING” that in spite of our wretched sinfulness, the Lord loved us and gave Himself for us. LOVE SO AMAZING is appreciated when we grasp the magnitude of salvation and sonship as it is applied to our hearts, and we become new creatures in Christ. We saw an illustration given by the Lord Jesus to show us LOVE SO AMAZING in forgiving the “prodigal son” and his older brother of their sinfulness and selfishness. This week we consider LOVE SO AMAZING, UNTIL THE RAPTURE.

According to insider@insider.com (Cheryl Teh) - Dec 23, 2021 as reported by **MSN. News...**

Swedish Company Has Created A Microchip That Allows Users To Carry Their COVID Vaccine Passport Under Their Skin

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/a-swedish-company-has-created-a-microchip-that-allows-users-to-carry-their-covid-vaccine-passport-under-their-skin/ar-AAS4OAw>

❖ There are many reasons for people to have lots of doom and gloom in our world today. The Bible foretold us about these days:

Mt. 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

❖ One of the important characteristics of the “last days” is a competition for love:

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days**
perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**,
covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient
to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false
accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that
are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures**
more than lovers of God;

5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power
thereof: from such turn away.

❖ The Apostle Paul finished his last letter with a quick review of his life, and then he encouraged us with a promise of a “crown of righteousness” to those who love the appearing of Christ:

2 Tim. 4: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing**.

❖ This morning we will observe Paul’s example on how we should live during these days right before the Rapture.

I. CONTEMPLATING THE COURSE – Acts 20:24a “... **so that I might finish my course with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus...?”

A. The Action Planned – “...so that I might finish **my course...**”

Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, **not knowing the things that shall befall me there:**
23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that **bonds and afflictions abide me.**
24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, **so that I might finish my course with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

❖ The Apostle Paul was determined, in spite of the known and unknown hardships, to know and finish his course.

Psa. 37:23 **The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD:** and he delighteth in his way.

Psa. 119:133 **Order my steps in thy word:** and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Jer. 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: ***it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.***

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

❖ The key to knowing one's personal course is to have daily fellowship with Christ.

B. The Attitude Projected – "...with joy..."

❖ We should count it a special joy to serve the Lord according to His will.

1 Tim. 1:12 And **I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me**, for that he counted me faithful, **putting me into the ministry;**

Psa. 16:11 Thou wilt shew me **the path of life**: in thy presence *is* **fulness of joy**; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

❖ Knowing and determined to finish your course fulfills purpose in life.

II. CONTENDING ON THE COURSE – 2 Tim. 3:7b

“I have **fought a good fight...**”

A. Face the Challenges

❖ Serving the Lord involves spiritual warfare and other adversities.

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gal. 6:9 And **let us not be weary in well doing:** for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

B. Fight for the Cause

- ❖ Spiritual motivation is derived from a sense of love and commitment for Christ.

1 Sam. 17:29 And David said, What have I now done?
Is there not a cause?

- ❖ COVID, inflation, political instability and simply life, creates stress and disappointment.
- ❖ Believers must focus upon Christ and His power in order to fight the good fight of faith.

1 Cor. 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we **an incorruptible**.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; **so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**

1 Tim. 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Jn. 15:18 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated you*.**

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but **I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

1 Jn. 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, **if the world hate you.**

III. COMPLETING THE COURSE – 2 Tim. 4:7c “...I have **finished *my* course...**”

1 Cor. 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men**, be strong.

A. By God's Grace

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, **which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**

1 Cor. 3:10 **According to the grace of God which is given unto me,** as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1 Cor. 15:10 **But by the grace of God I am what I am:** and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but **I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

Eph 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, **according to the gift of the grace of God** given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

1 Pet. 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, *even* so minister the same one to another, **as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

B. For God's Glory

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, **do all to the glory of God.**

Isa. 62:3 Thou shalt also **be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD**, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

1 Thess. 2:12 That ye **would walk worthy of God**, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

IV. COMPELLING TO THE COURSE – 2 Tim. 4:7d “...I have **kept the faith:**”

A. The Energy for Endurance is Faith – “...the faith:”

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that **ye should earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

B. The Essential Element of Faith – LOVE

Gal. 5:6 “...**faith which worketh by love.**”

1 Cor. 16:22 **If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ,** let him be Anathema Maranatha.

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing.**

Conclusion

Mt. 16:2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be* fair weather: for the sky is red.

3 And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. **O ye hypocrites**, ye can discern the face of the sky; **but can ye not discern the signs of the times?**

Mt. 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh:

33 So likewise ye, **when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.**

1 Jn. 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**