

## Paul's Accomplishments

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When you finish with your life, what will be your major accomplishments? Will it be things involving possessions, power, praise, or prestige? Or, will it be things involving your soul's eternity?

The most important accomplishments in life are exemplified by the life of Paul and they are found in 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul's first accomplishment in life was to fight (and win) the good fight of the faith. This good fight is a fight against sin and error (2 Corinthians 7:5; 10:4-5).

Paul's second accomplishment in life was to finish the race (course) of life. This race is to be run with discipline (1 Corinthians 9:23-27), lawfully (2 Timothy 2:5), and looking to Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Paul's third accomplishment in life was to keep (remain true to, guard) "the faith" of God's word. Like Paul, we must be obedient to "the faith" (Acts 6:7) and continue in "the faith" (Acts 14:22). We must not make shipwreck of "the faith" (1 Timothy 1:19) and we must contend earnestly for "the faith" (Jude 3).

Paul's fourth accomplishment in life was to receive the crown of righteousness. This crown is given by God only after contending lawfully (2 Tim. 2:5) and it is given only after endurance (James 1:12). It is given by God and will not fade away (1 Peter 5:4). It is a crown of eternal life (Revelation 2:10; 3:11). - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- Anger is the wind that blows out the light of reason.
- People always get into trouble when they think they can handle life without God.
- If you think too little very likely you will talk too much.
- Christians are like tea - their full strength is not drawn out until they get into hot water.
- Put on a heart of compassion.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ  
290 Warfield Blvd.  
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website  
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm  
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!  
For More Information Call  
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By  
Chris Reeves  
(615) 389-3250  
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com  
TheGoodTeacher.com

## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Paradise: Lost and Found

Do you remember those times when you were young and you lost something and later recovered it at the “lost and found” place? Do you remember how excited and relieved you were when you found what was lost of yours? The Bible story is actually about this same thing.

God dwelling with his people in fellowship is the whole story of the Bible. In the first two chapters of the Bible, Genesis 1-2, God is dwelling with his people in the garden of Eden. In the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21-22, God is dwelling with his people in heaven. So, what happens between the beginning of the Bible and the end?

In the beginning of time, a paradise on earth was prepared for Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-2) and at the end of time, a paradise in heaven will be prepared for all who are obedient to God (Revelation 22). Some time after the beginning of time, paradise was lost by mankind due to their sin (Genesis 3), but at the end of time, paradise will be found by mankind due to their obedience

Paradise Lost: Genesis	Paradise Found: Revelation
Garden defiled: 3:6-8	Garden undefiled: 21:27
Disfellowship: 3:9-13	Fellowship: 21:3,6-7
Curse: 3:14-19	No more curse: 22:3
Pain: 3:16	No more pain: 21:4
Driven out: 3:22-24	Invited in: 22:17
Access denied: 3:24	Access open: 22:14
Lost in Adam (Rom. 5:12ff)	Found in Christ (Rom. 5:12ff)

Paradise Lost: Genesis	Paradise Found: Revelation
Heavens and earth: 1:1	New heavens: 21:1
Night: 1:5	No night: 21:25
Sun and moon: 1:16	No sun or moon: 21:23
Animal creatures: 1:24	Angelic creatures: 14:3
Garden: 2:8-9	Paradise: 2:7; 22:2,14,19
Death present: 2:17	Death removed: 21:4
Satan present: 3:1-5	Satan cast out: 20:10

and salvation (Revelation 22). This is the whole story of the Bible!

In the beginning of time, God supplied all the needs of Adam and Eve - their need for a home and security (2:8), food and sustenance (2:9), aesthetics and beauty (2:9-14), work (2:15), restraint and self control (2:16-17), and their need for family and companionship (2:18-25).

But, when Adam and Eve sinned, their obedience was lost (2:15-17; 3:11), along with their innocence (2:25; 3:7), unity (2:24; 3:12), and their fellowship with God (2:8; 3:8,24). However, God made a “seed” promise at that time to send a Savior, Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 3:16). The rest of the Bible focuses on Jesus. Jesus is coming (the Old Testament), he has come (the New Testament gospels), and he is coming again (Acts – Revelation).

Friend, the Devil wants to keep you out of paradise. Where will you spend eternity? You have a choice: heaven or hell (Revelation 21:7-8; 21:25-27; 22:14-15). How badly do you want to find what was lost. Heaven now awaits you at the “lost and found”. - *Chris Reeves*