**I’m Ready Now!!!**

(2 Timothy 4:6-7 KJV)

***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:*

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ife is short and so uncertain. It is sometimes elaborated on that nothing is certain in life except death and the annoyances to pay taxes. But in reality that is not exclusively factual. Ironically a clever man with a good attorney can find a way around most if not all of his taxes, but no one can escape the transparent appointment of death. Here's something interesting to think about:

Worldwide, there are approximately **56,600,000** deaths each year. The mathematics on this equation works out to approximately **4.7** million per month, **155,000** per day, **6,500** per hour, **107** per minute, and **1.8** per second.

So in realty does death really win in the end? On this side of the grave it’s hard to tell. Left to our observations, we don’t know much beyond the familiar words of King Solomon the writer of Ecclesiastes. There is **“a time to be born and a time to die"** (Ecclesiastes 3:2). If you visit any cemetery you can’t really tell much difference between the Christian and the non-Christian grave. Moreover, you can't insinuate something by reading the grave markers, because the dead lie buried side by side, tenderly tucked away from our visibility six feet underground. There they are, all grouped together—there you have the young and old, the male and female, the gays and lesbians, the rich and poor, the famous and infamous, churchgoers and nonbelievers. Death is certain when your time is up, your time is up. But let's face the fact—that real Christian doesn’t die we sleep in the Lord.

This is a subject we’d rather not talk about, especially on such a sad and sorrowful occasion. But if we can’t talk about death in a casual conversation with spiritual chrismal, when can we talk about it? The very essence of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection—gives us verification that one man had escaped death through the grave and came back to inform us about it—Water couldn't drown him, Fire couldn't burn him and Death and the Grave could not hold him. And now he holds the keys of death and hell. So, let's examine Paul and see what to expect before the closure of his life—because believe it are not, Paul endorsed that he was ready now to be with the Lord. Paul told Timothy, "**I'm Ready Now**!!!"

1. **The Eagerness in the Closure:**

(2 Timothy 4:6 KJV)

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

Paul is sitting in the dreadful dungeon of a Roman prison. He is facing the capital charge of insurrection against the Roman government. He has had his preliminary hearing before Nero; therefore, he is soon to stand before Nero in his final trial and hear the fateful verdict: "Execution under Nero's chopping block." How soon? We do not know, but these verses indicate very soon. Paul years have turned to months, his months have now turned to days, his days have now turned to hours, his hours all have turned to minutes, and his minutes have dwindled down to seconds.

Paul knew that the end of his life upon earth was immediately at hand. This is the reason he had just passed the baton of the gospel over to Timothy—the reason he had just given Timothy the most awesome charge that can be given to a man: the awesome charge to preach the Word of God and to minister to a world that is lost and dying—a world that is reeling and rocking like a drunken man under the weight of so many desperate needs. Timothy must expediently go forth and preach the gospel with all the mighty virtues and commitment of his being.

Now let's set the record straight that Paul is not afraid of death. In fact, Paul knew that death was a equal opportunity employer—and he looked forward to death, for it meant he would be with Christ, *"**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21 KJV).

The writer is telling us that we have a meeting that has been arranged ahead of time for us by another. This is a meeting that we would not choose to attend if we had any say in the matter. In fact, we do everything we can to put off this meeting as long as possible. That is why we go to the doctor, swallow their pills, and try to take care of these bodies of clay.