BURN OUR HEARTS · STUDY GUIDE

God Wants You To Pour Yourself OUT

On the sermon **"God Wants You To Pour Yourself OUT"** by **Pastor Josh Howerton**, Lakepointe Church · September 27, 2026 · 2 Timothy 4:1-8

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8 (ESV)

(vv. 1-5 in your Bible) [6]For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. [7]I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8]Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

MAIN IDEA

"Doesn't matter how you start. Matters how you finish."

MAJOR POINTS in the order preached

1. **Remember who your boss is.** (vv. 1-2)
   - a **One Judge.** *"Hey buddy, remember who your boss is."*
   - b **Fear of God or fear of man.** *"There are only two ways to live."*
   - c **Preach the word.** *"Preach all the word. Don't preach part of the word."*
2. **Beware itching ears.** (vv. 3-5)
   - a **Shopping for a scratch.** *"I don't like that pastor because he's saying I'm wrong. But I do like that pastor because he's saying I'm right."*
   - b **Explaining it away.** *"They don't explain the word, they become masters at explaining away the word."*
   - c **Fulfill your ministry.** *"You just need to be a man or a woman of God wherever God has placed you."*
3. **Pour yourself out and finish.** (vv. 6-8)
   - a **Not a second chance.** *"You don't need a second chance. You need a substitute."*
   - b **His finished work.** *"Then you get to turn in His finished work, and the judge gives you His reward for His work, and it's imputed to you."*
   - c **A good trade.** *"You become His righteousness, He takes all your sin. That's a good trade."*

KEY INSIGHTS our observations, not from the sermon

- **A drink offering.** Wine was poured out with the sacrifice as "a pleasing aroma to the LORD" (Numbers 15:10). Paul sees his coming death as that kind of offering (v. 6; see Philippians 2:17).
- **His appearing, twice.** The charge is given "by his appearing" (v. 1), and the crown goes to "all who have loved his appearing" (v. 8). Paul's whole charge leans toward Christ's return.
- **Test the teacher.** The cure for itching ears is an open Bible. The believers in Berea were "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

DIGGING DEEPER A poured-out life in the big story of Scripture

- **Creation.** God put the man in the garden "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). We were made to spend our lives for Him.
- **Fall.** After sin, Adam said, "I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10). The fear of God gave way to fear and hiding.
- **Promise.** Drink offerings were poured out at the altar (Numbers 15:1-10), and the Servant would be the true offering: "he poured out his soul to death" (Isaiah 53:12).
- **Fulfillment.** Jesus took the cup: "my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). On the cross He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30).
- **New creation.** The crown is "laid up" (2 Timothy 4:8) for that day, and in John's vision the elders give their crowns back to Him: "They cast their crowns before the throne" (Revelation 4:10).

DISCUSS

1. Paul's charge rests on Christ, "who is to judge the living and the dead" (v. 1). Pastor Howerton says "there are only two ways to live." How does knowing who your Judge is loosen the grip of other people's opinions?
2. Pastor Howerton imagines someone saying, "I do like that pastor because he's saying I'm right." Where are you tempted to look for a voice that soothes conviction instead of calling you to repent?
3. Why is a substitute who turns in His finished work for you better news than "God is a God of second chances"?
4. Dr. Bill Lane told Michael Card, "I will now show you how a Christian man dies." Who is watching how you finish, and what would pouring yourself out for them look like this week?

THIS WEEK

Name the place where it feels like "nobody sees": the dishes, the desk, the hospital room. Pray there on purpose each day this week, quietly serve one person there, and tell one believer at your church about it.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You were poured out to death for us. Thank You for taking the test we could not pass and giving us Your finished work. Free us from the fear of man, give us ears that want the truth, and help us pour ourselves out in the places nobody sees, until we finish the race and see Your appearing. In Your name, amen.

No preacher is perfect, and featuring a sermon doesn't mean we endorse everything a pastor says or does. We focus on the message and test it all by Scripture.

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