

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is positioned over an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

Scripture Reading:

**II Peter 1:1-11**

**(Fathers) Finishing Well**

# Introduction

Twice in the NT, the believer's days on this earth are pictured as a race

- Heb 12:1 “...let us run with patience the race that is set before us...”
- Each Christian has a race
  - A specific race that Christ has appointed (Eph 2:10)
  - One that is not to be compared to another believer's race (I Cor 10:12)

# Introduction

I Cor 9:24 “...So run, that ye may obtain...”

- Tells us how to run our individual race
- Our competition is not against other believers, but against our 3 spiritual enemies (the world, the flesh and the devil) that would interfere with accomplishing those individual works that have been individually planned for us.

**Our challenge as grace believers is to finish well!**

# Christ's Assurance of Our Arrival at Future-Tense Salvation

- Guarded and presented unblemished
  - Jude 24 - flawless
- Presented without spot and unblemished
  - Unspotted by the flesh - Eph 5:25-27 (cf Jude 23)
  - Unspotted by the world - James 1:27

# Christ's Assurance of Our Arrival at Future-Tense Salvation (continued)

- Regenerated "...unto a living hope, and incredible inheritance, kept in Heaven for us" - I Pet 1:3-5
- God's work in us "...will be completed until a day of Jesus Christ" (The Rapture of the Church)

# Christ's Assurance of Our Arrival at Future-Tense Salvation (continued)

- Therefore, our garments (our life's reputation) are now being cleansed by a word (of intercession by Christ – Heb 7:25), so that we will be spotlessly glorified and receive our gracious and glorious inheritance which is now being kept in Heaven for us
- In the light of these tremendous future realities, how should we now finish our days?
  - II Pet 3:11 - “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives”

# Finishing Well

Looking up and ahead, not down and to the present

- Phil 3:17-20 - "...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"

Remain standing on past, present, and future promises of our salvation

- II Pet 3:17 (cf 3:3-4) - the potential of being led away by the error of the wicked (those set aside)
- II Pet 3:18 –the remedy! "... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

The promise of godliness now and into the future

- Our future life concerns unobstructed godliness, i.e., being "well-devoted" to God and His desires
- I Tim 4:8 "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

# CONCLUSION

Lewis Sperry Chafer said concerning the life of a person once they are saved:

**“The Christian is a citizen in Heaven, and after he is saved is detained herein this world in the capacity of a witness. He is a pilgrim and stranger, an ambassador from the court of Heaven.”**

**Fathers - finish well!**

**All believers - finish well!**