



# BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR GOD

## Finish Strong!

1 Timothy 4:7

Biblical scholar and teacher Dr. J. Robert Clinton studied the lives of one thousand biblical figures.

He discovered that fewer than 30% finished well. Sadly, many leaders today start off strong but falter before the finish.

Dr. Clinton notes that Paul provides valuable lessons on how to finish well:

1. Growth Matters
2. People Matter
3. Obedience Matters

(Read more on page 3)

## WELCOME!

December 29, 2024

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10AM  
WORSHIP 11AM  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH AGES 3-7  
NURSERY 2 & YOUNGER

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

PRIMARY CLASS 3-6  
JUNIOR CLASS 7-12  
TEEN CLASS 13-17  
7 PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS



NEW SERMON  
SERIES  
JANUARY 5  
SUNDAY, 11AM

# WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT!



How do you like the **Sermon Series** format?



We introduced two new ministries.  
How would you rate our involvement in these ministries?

- **Teen Leadership** helping with People Helping People
- ZR Youth Group finished their first full year as a formal **CEF Good New Club**



How do you like the **coffee shop**?



We introduced **introduction videos for the sermons**.  
Do do you like these?



Do you like the updates to our website and bulletin.

- **Website**



- **Bulletin**



What should we do differently?

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**Please place this survey  
in the offering box.**

# 1. Growth Matters

Leaders lose influence if they do not continue to grow. But growth doesn't just happen. It requires intentionality and investment. Paul was passionate about his spiritual potential. In Philippians 3:12 – 15 Paul declared important truths about how to keep growing to the end:

- Communicate honestly where you are: "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal . . . I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it."
- Concentrate totally on your goal: "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. . . . I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
- Consecrate everything you have to get there: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. . . . All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you."

# 2. People Matter

Paul valued relationships and expressed appreciation for others. He expressed that value and appreciation all throughout his letters.

- "I always thank my God for you" (1 Corinthians 1:4).
- "Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you" (Ephesians 1:15 – 16).
- "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3).

Paul put a "10" on every person's head — meaning he expected the best of them and helped them think more highly of themselves. He gave people hope, and he shared himself with others.

# 3. Obedience Matters

Paul was faithful to God's call. As the apostle bade a tearful, final farewell to the elders in the church at Ephesus, he reminded them he had faithfully served the Lord despite hardships. He told them he felt compelled to go to Jerusalem although he knew chains and tribulations awaited him there. But, Paul assured them, none of that mattered to him. What did matter was that he finish the ministry he had received from the Lord (Acts 20:17 – 25).

Those who wanted him to quit preaching could throw rocks at him, but that didn't stop Paul. He counted it a privilege to suffer for Christ.

What could be done with the apostle Paul? Absolutely nothing, because nothing mattered more to him than faithful obedience to God.

The true nature of leadership isn't self-centered exaltation like Nero demonstrated — it's an ongoing process of sacrifice that faithfully serves others and obeys God no matter the cost.

## **Growth matters. People matter. Obedience matters.**

When we embrace and embody those principles we can, like Paul, lead well and finish well.

(Excerpted from an article by John Maxwell from the NIV Maxwell Leadership Bible)

