How Can You Finish Well?

By Clark Blanchard

In the Christian life, it's not how you start that matters, it's finishing well that counts. Finishing well means walking with God daily in growth, obedience, and service throughout life right up until death, which can be at any time. Paul declared *I have fought the good fight, I have **finished the course**, I have kept the faith* ... (2 Timothy 4:7).

Principles for Finishing Well

- Finishing well does not mean finishing unblemished or perfect. That's impossible (1 John 1:8, 10).

- It's possible to stumble and by God's grace get up again to finish well. Study David (2 Samuel 12:1-24; Psalm 51).

- Avoid any close personal relationship with the opposite sex other than your spouse (1 Corinthians 10:13).

- Maintain a few close and quality Christian friends. Don't get spiritually isolated (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:21-25).

- Maintain a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer, and meditation (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:16).

- Maintain a weekly time for personal in-depth Bible study (2 Timothy 2:15).

- Maintain a ministry of outreach, evangelism, and discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2-4).

- Cultivate friends who have contented financial outlooks (Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:10-13).

- Cultivate regular quality family time and activities (Proverbs 22:6; Mark 6:31-32).

- Remember, ... *let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall* (1 Corinthians 10:12; see also 2 Peter 2:9).

Consider

What does it mean to finish well? Finishing well means walking with God daily in growth, obedience, and service throughout life, right up until death, which can be any time.

What prevents Christians from finishing well? We need to know where the pitfalls lie and what we must do to avoid them. They include:
• The ambush of the opposite sex
• The ambush of money
• The ambush of a neglected family
• The ambush of false doctrine