

Coach House Church BEACONS

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

12TH JULY 2021

After working hard all week, everybody looks forward to the weekend. you all know what I'm talking about when I say "the Friday feeling". It's that feeling you get when you're able to let your hair down and not stress that you have to get up the next morning; it's when you can stay up later in the evening maybe meet with some friends go out for meal or watch a film till the early hours of the morning. However, the Friday feeling is not always there when you've not been working all week. When you are able to do the things that you enjoy all the time, Friday evening is not such a special evening anymore. It becomes mundane and blurred into the next day.

When you have to work hard for a time or long hours, time goes past quicker if you have something to look forward to. It is as if work is not as hard when you have something planned and the end is in sight. As you know I work in a school and the summer holiday is not that far off, only about a week and a bit away...Not like anyone is counting. The last couple of weeks in school before summer are always exciting and everybody looks forward to fun activities like sports day, school drama performance and the end of year parties. This year because of Covid we're not having any of those still, there's the summer holiday to look forward to.

I must be honest with you, I do prefer the end of the school year to the beginning of it in September. And from the following verse it looks like I'm not the first or the only one to prefer the end of something to the beginning: King Solomon says this in Ecclesiastes 7:8: "The end of a matter is better than its beginning..."

I said a bit earlier when I was talking about the Friday feeling that the feeling is not there when you've not put the graft in. Therefore my question is: How do we finish, do we finish well? Do we give our absolute best to the end, or do we give up because it's too hard? This could apply to anything we do in life: our job, our family life, our hobbies even our lives as Christians

We live in a time when morals are lax and it's hard to stick to your values as a Christian. We have been called to show Christ's love in the world without love. To be kind in an unkind world. To be generous in a selfish culture. To look after others when the world dictates to look after number one. To swim against the current it's not easy. Paul in his letter to the Philippians church said the following in chapter 3 v14:

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

And towards the end of his life and ministry in his letter to his friend and student Timothy he wrote the following:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7.

Paul was able to finish well like many others that we read about in the Bible. And they all were able to do that because they knew it wasn't in their own strength they were acting. They had the King of Kings and the Almighty on their team. Paul encourages the believers in Philippians with God's promises as follows:

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6

If you're in a season when you struggle fighting the good fight, be encouraged that the fight is not forever. It will all end soon.

The bible tells us in Revelation chapter 21:

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Revelation 21:1-8

Isn't that a great place to look forward to?

Lord Jesus I pray that you will give us strength to finish the race and finished well to be able to join you in that wonderful place that you prepared for us. Be with us Lord. In our weakness you be our strength.



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