

# Saying Good-Bye .... And Finishing Strong

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- Saying good-bye

# Saying Good-Bye ..... And Finishing Strong

- Living Strong ... Finishing Strong
  - Lance Armstrong yellow bracelets
- But since you don't know when your life will end, are they really any different?

# Saying Good-Bye ..... And Finishing Strong

- Finishing Strong
  - One morning you wake up and find you are old
  - You find yourself at the head of the table

# Saying Good-Bye ..... And Finishing Strong

- Finishing Strong
  - Who comes to mind as a strong finisher?
    - Who not so much?
  - What scriptures come to mind?

# Saying Good-Bye .... And Finishing Strong

- II Timothy 4: 6-8: “<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on the day – and not only to me, but also to all who longed for his appearance.”

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- Hebrews 12:1-3: “<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

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- Acts 20:24: “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”



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- I Corinthians 9: 24-26: “<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run but only gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.<sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the game goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.<sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.<sup>27</sup> No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

# Living – Running Is Hard

- Hebrews 11: 35b- 40: “<sup>35b</sup> Other were tortured and refused to be released so they they might gain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison, <sup>37</sup> they were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted, and mistreated – <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. <sup>40</sup> God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

# Living – Running Is Hard

- Psalm 88: 1; 13-18 “<sup>1</sup> O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you .....<sup>13</sup> But I cry to you for help, O Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you. <sup>14</sup> Why, O LORD do you reject me and hide your face from me? <sup>15</sup> From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered your terrors and am in despair. <sup>16</sup> Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. <sup>17</sup> All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me. <sup>18</sup> You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.”

# Living – Running Is Hard

- Psalm 90:5-6; 9-10; 12, 17: “<sup>5</sup> You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning - <sup>6</sup> though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.... <sup>9</sup> All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.<sup>10</sup> The length our days is seventy years – or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.... <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.... <sup>17</sup> May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us - establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.”

# Living – Running Is Hard

- John 11: 33-35: “<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> ‘Where have you laid him?’ he asked. ‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.”

# But Our Hope Is In The Lord

- I Peter 1: 23-25: “<sup>23</sup> For you have been born again not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God, <sup>24</sup> For ,  
‘All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands forever.’”
- Isaiah 40: 6-8

# But Our Hope Is For Things Eternal

- Psalm 84: 1,2,4: “How lovely is they dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! For my soul, it longeth and fainteth for the courts of the lord. My heart and flesh cry of for joy unto the living God. Blest are they who make thy house their dwelling: They praise thy name evermore.”
- Hebrews 13:14: “For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.”

# Our Hope Is In The Risen Lord

- I Corinthians 15: 51 - 55: “<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed –<sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will all be changed.<sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality,<sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.<sup>55</sup> ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’”



Anyone Recognize This Guy?



# Meet Johannes Brahms



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- When I say Johannes Brahms, you:

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- When I say Johannes Brahms, you:
  - Sit up straight and lean forward with unbridled anticipation

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- When I say Johannes Brahms, you:
  - Sit up straight and lean forward with unbridled anticipation
  - Say “Huh?”

# Meet Johannes Brahms

- When I say Johannes Brahms, you:
  - Sit up straight and lean forward with unbridled anticipation
  - Say “Huh?”
  - Start snoring

# Brahms' German Requiem

- When I say Requiem, you:

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- When I say Requiem, you:
  - Think of the Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame



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# Brahms' German Requiem

- When I say Requiem, you:
  - Think of the Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame
  - Say “Huh?”
  - Think “Where is my dark suit and ask yourself who just died?”

# Brahms' German Requiem

- Before today, you:
  - Never heard of the German Requiem
  - Were vaguely familiar with it
  - Had listened to part or all of it
  - Had sung part or all of it

# From The Good News Class Musical History Desk

- Renaissance (1450-1600)
  - Thomas Tallis (1505 – 1585)
- Baroque (1600-1750)
  - Vivaldi (1678-1741)
  - Handel (1685-1759), Bach (1685-1750)
- Classical (late 18<sup>th</sup>/ early 19th centuries)
  - Mozart (1756-1791)
  - Haydn (1732-1809)
  - Beethoven, Schubert
- Romantic (19<sup>th</sup> century)
  - **Brahms (1833 – 1897)**
  - Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)
  - Chopin, Liszt

# Meet Johannes Brahms

- Born in Hamburg, made piano debut at 10
- Close friends with Robert and Clara Schumann
- Gruff, but nonetheless delighted in helping friends and family
- Little interest in his personal appearance
- First symphony referred to as Beethoven's 10<sup>th</sup> (L v B only wrote 9)
- Wrote the German Requiem in response to death of Robert Schumann (1856) and Brahm's mother (1865)
  - First performed on Good Friday, 1868
  - Contrast to Latin or Roman Catholic Requiems, which focused on the “Dies Irae” – the Days Of Wrath – the Last Judgment
  - Brahm's utters words of consolation, designed to reconcile us with death .... and the life to come
- The Requiem does not mention Jesus per se
  - Early on had to include “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” from Handel's *Messiah*

# The Reality Of Death ...

- I Peter 1:24 (Part II)
  - Behold, all flesh is as the grass
  - And all the glory of mankind is as the flower of grass
  - For lo, the grass withereth, and the flower thereof is fallen

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# ...And The Resurrection!

- Psalm 84: 1,2, 4 (Part IV)
  - How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!
  - For my soul, it longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
  - My heart and soul cry out for joy unto the living God.
  - Blest are they who make thy house their dwelling:
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# Handel (*Messiah*) and Brahms (part VI)

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