

Think On These Things...

How Do You Want To Be Remembered?

Just before his team left the locker room to play the University of Miami Hurricanes in the 2002 Fiesta Bowl, Jim Tressel, head football coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes, gathered his team together for one final talk. After going over the game plan, he asked his team one simple question: "How do you want to be remembered?" They responded by going out and defeating the Miami Hurricanes for the national championship.

How do you want to be remembered? That's a good question and one we will someday answer, whether we want to or not. We all find ourselves on the battlefield of life, and at journey's end, how we fought the battle will determine how we'll be remembered. For the faithful Christian soldier, I can think of no greater thing that could be said than what the aged apostle Paul had to say just prior to his execution. He wrote, *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"* (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Throughout his Christian life, Paul had never stopped fighting, running, or believing. That's how I want to be remembered! At journey's end, I want to be remembered as one having finished the course by being faithful to God.

In 1968, Tanzania chose John Stephen Akhwari to represent them in the Mexico City Olympics. During the race, Akhwari stumbled and fell, severely injuring his knee and ankle. It was 7 P.M. and a runner from Ethiopia had won the race. Most of the spectators had gone home. All of a sudden, a siren went off, and there in the distance came a limping Akhwari. The few people that were left stood, cheering him on. A reporter asked him after he crossed the finish line, "Why continue the race after being so badly injured?" He replied, "My country did not send me 7,000 miles to begin the race; they sent me to finish the race!"

For the Christian, the race begins at baptism and doesn't end until we cross over into eternity! May we be remembered for a people having faithfully finished the race!

-Terry R. Townsend