

*I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith...*

Homily, 29th June, 2016  
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

**2 Tim 4,6-8.17-18**

**father G. Paparone o.p.**

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My dearest,

Today is the solemnity of the Apostles St. Peter and Paul, martyrs of Jesus and pillars of the Church, those who were called **the founders of the Church**: the Church of the *Gentiles*, and the Church of the *Jews*.

We may say they are the two most important people of our ecclesial tradition.

I wanted to read the verses of the second letter to Timothy, where we are reminded by St. Paul of **the true and authentic meaning of a Christian life**.

I would say it is not only the meaning of a Christian life, rather **the meaning of our entire life**.

For the non-believers the key role is played by our consciousness, while for the believers the key role is played by God, and indeed St. Paul entrust himself to Him: *I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted* (1 Cor 4,3-4).

My justice, the judgment upon me, and the authenticity of my existence is in the hands of Jesus, our Lord who is our way, truth and life as well as the supreme good.

Saint Paul is aware of having lived all his life following the Lord, and dares say what follows: *there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing*.

Therefore, we may end with this beautiful thought: **our life, the life of all of us believers is living in love and waiting with love our meeting with Him** (the Lord).

A meeting that may occur, according to St. Paul, already in this life, in the event Jesus returns, but that for sure will occur in the other life, after our death, in the event Jesus does not manifest himself among us for His second time.

Therefore, let us free our mind, heart from all burdens and worries!

**Let us live** serene, sober and with truth, as Saint Paul says. But, in particular, **with love every day, thinking that *today* is the absolute and only possession we hold**.

Let us try, today, to proceed with simplicity and humility toward *Heaven* in communion with God.

Praised be Jesus Christ.