

For Sunday, September 29, 2019

The Pastoral Epistles

II Timothy 4:6-8 “⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth 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.”

There are three tenses used in Paul’s summary of his own ministry. Verse 6 starts with a present tense, verse 7 with a past, and then verse 8 with a focus on the future. There is no doubt that presently Paul is effective in the ministry. He says, “I am already *being* poured out....” This is a passive voice, which indicates Paul is being acted upon. Who is acting upon Paul?

The present tense here stresses that the process has begun, and the passive voice that God, not Rome, is still in control, despite appearances. – William Mounce