

I ran cross country for three years in high school. My very first race was a JV race in my freshman year, a 2-mile course. I was excited but obviously inexperienced. When the gun sounded, two teammates and I were out in front, and we stayed out front. With about a half mile to go, I left my teammates behind and led the pack on my own. As I turned the final corner, the finish line was in sight. My heart was racing with the prospect of winning my first race. As I was on my way to victory, I heard footsteps behind me with about 100 yards to go. I turned around and saw someone rapidly gaining on me and eventually passing me. I saw that I had 2nd sown up so I settled, opting not to chase him down, after all, I was a little tired. But that race haunted me as I did not leave everything out on the course. I felt that I could have won that race. Now fast forward to my final race in my junior year. It was the district meet and I was slated to run varsity as the number seven runner. We had a good team, but I was battling another teammate for that number seven position, so I was going to prove myself worthy. And I did, running the race of my life. I set a personal record by about two minutes, breaking the 18-minute barrier for a 5K course for my first and only time, and finished as the third runner on the team. Everyone was shocked, including my coach, and me. As they say, I left it all out on the course, and I was satisfied.

I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. (Psalm 69:3)

Here, the psalmist is not complaining and wondering where God is, rather, he is leaving it all out on the course. He is crying out to God with everything he has for a couple reasons. First, he is confident that God will come through and so he keeps crying out. He does not give up. He does not seek another option, turning to another god. The psalmist knows God and so he gives God his all. And secondly, the psalmist echoes Peter's statement to Jesus in the Gospel of John, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Why not continue to cry out to God? No other god has words of eternal life. They all have empty promises that cannot save. The gods of this world care nothing for you. Only our Creator God almighty promises life eternal through Jesus Christ. For the psalmist, his eyes grow dim waiting for God because he knows God will indeed come for him.

Weary, parched throat, dim eyes, are all temporary. But when God comes, in the name of Jesus, You WILL BE renewed. And Jesus is coming. God's creation will

be renewed. The dead will be resurrected. That is my hope and so I keep crying out.