



FRESH ENCOUNTER

STAY IN THE RACE

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | JANUARY 11, 2023

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

INTRODUCTION

- a) Running race of life
- b) Putting my body into training
 - delayed ~~gratification~~ gratification
 - discipline my body
 - castaway = disqualified
- c) trusting is not sitting on your hands
- d) trusting God is active faith
- e) Christian life compared to Olympic games
 - marathon for life

- Discipline of training

1. THE PRIORITY OF DISCIPLINE (v. 24)

A. To Run the race

TO PARTICIPATE

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," (Hebrews 12:1)

reaching forward
"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12) - not perfect

TO FINISH - set course & finish line

B. To Obtain the goal (prize)

future prize (reward)
"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

God's goal for Christian
"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

Quote: "There are a thousand excuses for failure but never a good reason." - Mark Twain

2. THE Pursuit OF DISCIPLINE (v. 25-27a)

not alone
"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9)

A. Temperate in all Things ^{self control} _{self governing}

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." (Romans 14:21)

B. Purposeful in all Things

- having purpose in Christian life

Discipline of holy living

"To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you." (1 Corinthians 9:22-23)

C. Controlled in all Things

self control

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" (Ephesians 5:18) behavior in excess not wanted

3. THE Prize OF DISCIPLINE

A. The destination - golden crowns in heaven

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:10-12)

B. The declaration of God's judgment

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 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 Timothy 4:7-8) different kinds of crowns

CONCLUSION

Rom 14:7-8 no one lives or dies
to themselves
- Christian lives to the Lord
- Christian dies to the Lord
- Christians belong to the Lord