

Philippians 3:12-14
"Courageous in the Race"

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1. Introduction

- a. Paul wrote letter to Christians living in Philippi in Greece
- b. Greek word stadia; English a cognate stadium
- c. Christian life compared to a race
- d. Modern Olympics based on ancient Olympic games in Greece
- e. Race runner practice discipline

2. Discipline for Courage

a. Requires humility

- race at starting mark
 - * already finished race
 - * already won all the races
- only one person without mistakes - Jesus Christ the Lord

b. Requires passion

- follow ~~up~~ ^{after} - pressing on
- race is running or sprinting
- 1 Cor 9: runs to reach a prize
- Christ's purpose for Christian
 - * Jesus has laid up (set aside) rewards for me in heaven
- striving for the mastery
 - * Heb 12:1 lay aside every weight
- 1 Tim 4:7 exercise godliness

2.

a. Exercise in godliness

- in prayer
- in Bible study
- in service

b. Important to start correctly, but imperative (mandatory) to finish well

3. Passion to finish the race

a. 1 Cor 9:24 run in race run in all out effort

b. Passion to finish well

- Christian life is a marathon
- surrounded by great cloud of w.

- Ps 37:23

Prov 24:16 just man falls, but gets up

c. Discipline of courage

4. Direction of Courage

a. "This one thing I do" - looking ahead

b. Forget past life which cannot be changed

- Paul persecuted Christians as Saul

- Phil 3:8 Paul looked forward to the knowledge of Christ Jesus

- do not glory in it

c. Focus on the finish line

- reaching forward to finish line

- ~~not~~ running with purpose
* not as beating the air

- Heb 12:2 looking onto Jesus

5. Decision of Courage

a. First decision of faith

- accept Jesus for salvation

- Eph 2:8

- 1 Cor 15:3-4 death, burial, resurrection of Christ

b. Runners must first qualify to race

- to reach heaven, person must believe in Jesus Christ

- Titus 3:5 by Jesus' righteousness

c. Destination of faith

- Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Phil 3:10)

- to heaven In 14:1-3 father's house many mansions