

Running to Win the Race of Life

1 Corinthians 9:23-27

Introduction: This race is far more aggressive and active than most Christians realize. There are over 50 references to athletics in the New Testament.

- v. 24 race
- v. 24 Prize
- v. 25 athlete (agonizes: disciplines and conditions himself)
- v. 25 temperate: self controlled (Hebrews 12:1)
- v. 25 trophy or crown
- v. 26 fight with a purpose
- v. 27 wrestling
- v. 27 public address announcer: preaching

Story of wrestler: extrinsic (coach) intrinsic (internal athlete)

- I. Citizenship:** Who's team are you on?
Isthmian Games and the Greek cities
Your identity
- II. Choice** Will you play the sport? Are you chosen?
- III. Coachable:** Surrender independence to the team/coach
2 Tim. 2:5 Athlete can't win unless he follows the rules
- IV. Competition** Must be competitive: not prideful, but against Satan
Your competition: Satan, the world, your own flesh
- V. Concentration** Are you focused or fragmented?
This one thing I do: forgetting what is behind I press on, Philippians 3:13-14
- VI. Caution:** v. 27 Don't become a castaway.
Col. 3:15 Peace of God rule your hearts
- VII. Compensation:** v. 24 Incorruptible crown
What will be your reward