

Run to Win!

by Wayne Goff

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it” (1 Corinthians 9:24).

The winter Olympics of 2018 have reminded me once again of **the high price** of winning. Some of these contestants have spent their entire lives preparing for their contests! They have sacrificed hours of time, the pain and agony of training their bodies, and the temporary pleasures of life in order to win a single race. One slip, one mistake, one slight error — **and they lose!** They have my undying admiration because I have a slight glimmer of understanding the price they have paid to win.

The apostle Paul admonished Christians to view our lives as Christians as a **“race”** — *“Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”*

Winning a race requires **mental focus**, keeping your eye on the goal, and working as though you are the only one to win! Paul said, *“Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty...”* (1 Cor. 9:26).

Winning a race requires **following the rules** of the contest. *“Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain”* (Phil. 2:16). You cannot cheat, cut corners, or find an easy way to victory. You must run while *“holding fast the Word of Life”!*

Winning a race means **running with endurance** until you cross the finish line! *“Therefore ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,”* (Heb. 12:1). Christianity is not a 100-yard dash; it is a long-distance marathon. Look at the example of those in front of you — Jesus, the faithful worthies of Hebrews 11 — and follow the path they pursued. Don't look back!

Some criticize the *strong desire* to compete, to win, to strive to be the best. I never have done that. Perhaps because this is the attitude of Jesus and His apostles in the New Testament. *Run in such a way that YOU may obtain the prize.* Don't think you can get to heaven without the above qualities.

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