

“Run”

by Wayne Goff

The Greek word translated “run” (τρέχω) in 1 Corinthians 9:24 was used in secular Greek of the Olympics. Runners in the Olympic games ranked high in esteem, yet some criticized these runners in favor of intellectual achievement. The Cynics pointed out that animals could run faster than men! But at the same time these Cynics thought they should be considered the true contestants who deserved the crown, so maybe their complaining was nothing more than a form of jealousy. Still others argued that the victory wreath was better adapted to goats, who could eat them!

This same Greek word is found in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. It is found in Job 41:14 and is translated “to leap,” and in Genesis 18:7 for “to run.” In addition to professional runners, the Old Testament referred to those who ran for everyday reasons — to bring good news or save a life (2 Sam. 18:19; Prov. 7:23). Even God’s Word is spoken of as running swiftly (Ps. 147:15). *“I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart”* (Psalms 119:32).

Paul’s prayer in 2 Thessalonians 3:1 seems to borrow from Psalm 147:15. *“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you.”* Indeed, let us pray that God’s Word may have a swift transfer throughout the world!

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