

The Race Is On!

I. Introduction : The Race?

- A. **1 Corinthians 9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
- B. **Hebrews 12:1** 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,
- C. **Ecclesiastes 9:11** I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.
- D. **A Christian race with the finish line being the gates of Heaven!**

II. Win

- A. **1 Corinthians 9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
- B. **Matthew 7:13&14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
- C. **Matthew 7:21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- D. **Philippians 2:12** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

III. Lay aside sin and run with patience

- A. **Hebrews 12:1** 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,
- B. **1 Peter 4:1** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;
- C. **Romans 6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- D. **Romans 5:3** And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- E. **James 1:3** Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

IV. Persevere

- A. **Ecclesiastes 9:11** I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift...
- B. **Hebrews 3:14** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
- C. **2 Thessalonians 3:13** But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.
- D. **Galatians 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

E. **1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

V. **Conclusion**

A. **Luke 9:23** And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

B. **We must not stop!**

C. **Luke 9:62** And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God**

D. **We must not look back!**

E. **Colossians 3:2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth

F. **Hebrews 12:2&3** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.