

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

RUNNING THE RACE

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RUNNING THE RACE TO OBTAIN A PRIZE

When we are born, we all enter a race which will come to an end with our death. Everyone is automatically entered into this contest. The race is your life here on earth and salvation is the ultimate prize.

- The apostle Paul places the Christian race in contrast to the Isthmian games. **1 Corinthians 9:24**
- Everyone who wanted to win controlled their body. **verse 25a**
- The corruptible vs. incorruptible prize. **verse 25b**
- Paul concentrated on the prize, pushed toward it, and landed all his punches. **verse 26**
- Self denial and sin. **verse 27a**
- A preacher of salvation may show others the way to heaven but miss the mark himself. **verse 27b**

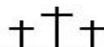
JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

- Who do we have cheering us on? **Hebrews 12:1a**
- What is slowing us down? **verse 1b**
- Run the race with endurance. **verse 1c**
- Look at Jesus. **verse 2a**
- He came and redeemed us despite the heavy cost. **verse 2b-c**
- Now He reigns at the Father's right hand. **verse 2d**
- Reflect on Jesus' example and the opposition He faced. **Verse 3a**
- Don't be discouraged. **verse 3b**
- Resistance unto blood showed a determined courage and a purpose not to yield. **verse 4**

RUNNING THE RACE WITH YOUR PRIZE

How should we act once we have won the prize? What should be our priority? The apostle Paul lived, ate, slept and breathed Christ. When you live with something to lose, you lose the ability to be everything God created you to be, so live with nothing to lose. With that philosophy, nobody could stop Paul.

- They threatened him with physical harm but he counted it a privilege to suffer for Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:24-25**



- ❑ They threatened to kill him if he didn't stop preaching but Paul only thought of that as a promotion. **Philippians 1:21-30**
- ❑ When they killed Paul, they thought that they had finally stopped him, but they couldn't see what happened next. **2 Timothy 4:1-22**

DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVE

Many of us begin projects which we gradually lose interest and never finish. We think about them from time to time, but we are never really motivated to do anything and with time they are forgotten. This is the way it is for many Christians, we start off on fire for the Lord, but over time our flame and heat gradually dissipates until we are either suppressed or just a little flame that's barely there. However, the Lord's desire for us once we are lit is to become brighter and brighter until the day he takes us home.

Don't lose sight of your first love. **Revelation 2:1-7**

Run the race but don't lose sight of the objective!