

RUN THE RACE *Acts 20:17–24*

Big Idea: Every follower of Jesus has been given a race. We are called to faithfully finish the course Christ has marked out for us.

Foundation

Acts 20:24: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course..."

Every believer has been given a race to run.

God's revealed will for every believer:

- Praise His name (Psalm 69:30–31)
- Pursue holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
- Rejoice always (1 Thessalonians 5:16)
- Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Live by faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- Do good (1 Peter 2:15)
- Make disciples (Matthew 28:18–20)

1. Run the Race with Humility

Acts 20:18–19: *When they came to him, he said to them, "You know, from the first day I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with tears, and during the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews.*

Key Scriptures

- Proverbs 16:18
- James 4:6

Ask Yourself

- Where has pride crept into my race?
- Am I making much of myself—or much of Jesus?

We exist to make much of Jesus.

2. Run the Race with Faithfulness

Acts 20:20–23: *You know that I did not hesitate to proclaim anything to you that was profitable and to teach you publicly and from house to house.²¹ I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.²² “And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit,^[a] not knowing what I will encounter there,²³ except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me.*

Faithfulness Means

- Trusting God when you don't understand.
- Obeying when obedience is costly.
- Worshiping when your heart is broken.

Key Scriptures

- Hebrews 12:1
- James 1:2–4
- Galatians 6:9

Don't confuse a difficult race with the wrong race.

3. Run the Race with Abandonment

Acts 20:24: *But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course^[b] and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.*

Ask Yourself

- What do I treasure most?
- Am I running my race—or comparing it to someone else's?
- Have I surrendered every part of my life to Jesus?

Key Scripture

- Matthew 6:21
- Hebrews 12:1–2

The finish line isn't comfort. The finish line is Jesus.