

L91 | I Corinthians | The Christian Athlete | I Cor. 9:15-27

I. Intro/Review:

1. The Sacrifice of Power
 - 1.1 - The Soldier
 - 1.2 - The Husbandmen
 - 1.3 - The Shephard
 - 1.4 - The Ox
 - 1.5 - The Priests
 - 1.6 - The Preacher of the Gospel
2. Paul's Reward
 - 2.1 - Free from all
 - 2.2 - Made servant to all
 - 2.3 - Save some

II. Preview:

1. The Christian Athlete
 - 1.1 - The Runner - run to obtain
 - 1.2 - The Wrestler - temperate in all things
 - 1.3 - The Boxer - fight with purpose
 - 1.4 - Striving Lawfully

III. Sermon:

1. The Christian Athlete

**Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
{1 Corinthians 9:24}**

1.1 - The Runner - run to obtain

1.1.1 - "know ye not"

- Drawing upon their Isthmian games where they among other games were commonly known for running, wrestling, boxing, and disc throwing.

1.1.2 - "that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?"

- All run, but only one receives the price
- The issue isn't the equation that as Christian's only one will receive the prize.
- The issue is the manner in which you run that is to receive the prize

1.1.3 - "So run, that ye may obtain."

- So run as the one to receive the prize
- "ye" - everyone run to win the prize
- "obtain" - to take eagerly, to seize, and possess; to gain possession of a thing
 - "comprehend" - Eph. 3:18
 - "apprehend" - Php. 3:12-13

**And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.
{1 Corinthians 9:25}**

1.2 - The Wrestler - temperate in all things

1.2.1 - "And every man that striveth for the mastery"

- Both running or wrestling equated in the striving
- "striveth" - to endeavour with strenuous zeal; to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers
- "mastery" - superiority in competition
 - Same theme as the one to obtain the prize
- Summary: Paul as the apostle committed to preach the gospel does so in a way to win the prize. The prize being the salvation of others and the glory of Christ.

1.2.2 - "is temperate in all things."

- "temperate" - not excessive; moderate in the indulgence of appetites and passions.
 - 1 Cor. 7:9 - "But if **they cannot contain**, let them marry:..."
 - Acts 24:25 - "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come..."
 - Gal. 5:23 - "meekness, temperance..."
 - Tit. 1:8 - "but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;"
 - Tit. 2:2 - "that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate..."
 - In the world that is in eating, drinking, and sexual indulgence
 - "temperate" contextually is being servant to all, the forsaking of liberties for the edification of others.
 1. Involves not only the forsaking of earthly lusts, but
 2. The sacrifice of liberties

1.2.3 - "Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

- The eternal life of others
 - Php. 4:1 - "...my joy and crown..."
 - 1 The. 2:19 - "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?"
- Reward for faithful service in the Lord's business
 - 2 Tim. 4:8 - "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord..."
 - Col. 3:22-25
- We will already receive and incorruptible body, this is an incorruptible crown based upon our sacrificial behavior in the service to Christ.
 - Php. 3:13-21
- Doesn't fade away, glory exceeds the glory of the corruptible
- Rom. 8 - bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty (and incorruption) of the children of God.

**I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:
{1 Corinthians 9:26}**

1.3 - The Boxer - fight with purpose

1.3.1 - "I therefore so run"

- Conclusion

1.3.2 - "not as uncertainly;"

- Not doubtful; not without knowledge
- Uncertainly - not sure, not confident

1.3.3 - "so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:"

- Knows purpose
- Knows enemy
- Knows how to train
- Knows what outcome looking for

**But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I
have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
{1 Corinthians 9:27}**

1.4 - Striving Lawfully

1.4.1 - "But I keep under my body"

- Rom. 8 - mortify the deeds of the body

- Rom. 12 - present bodies...

1.4.2 - "and bring it into subjection"

- Rom. 6

1.4.3 - "lest that by any means"

- Carnally - 1 Cor. 1-6
- Abuse of liberty - 1 Cor. 7-9

1.4.4 - "when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

- 2 Tim. 2:5 - lawfully strive
 - Faithful to message
 - Faithful in manner of life
- 1 Cor. 4:1-2 - faithful steward

IV. Conclusion:

- 1 Corinthians 10 the lessons of Israel and the castaways based upon unfaithfulness and lusts instead of temperance.