

Keeping on Course  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

I. Intro

• Anecdote

• Olympics

- It was November 26th - 2025 - when the Olympic torch was once again lit - in the Grecian city of Olympia.
- And it was at that point in time when the Olympic torch relay began - as the torch was carried by torchbearers...
- ...from Olympia - to Athens - where the flame was then transferred to the Milano Cortina organizers on December 4th, 2025.
- Then - on December the 6th - the Italian leg began - as torchbearers continued to carry the flame through every province of Italy.
  - It was 9 days ago - on February the 6th - 2026 - when two Italian skiing legends made Olympic history...
  - ...as they transferred the flame - to two separate cauldrons - which are located in Milan - and Cortina Italy.
  - Think about that - 10,000 torchbearers kept their course - from Olympia to Italy - in order to light the Olympic cauldrons.
- History
- Now - you might be interested to know that - the lighting of the cauldron was initially introduced at the 1928 Games in Amsterdam.
- And the torch-relay element was added eight years later - at the 1936 Games in Berlin.

- And while these Olympic traditions were created in the 20th century...
  - ...the International Olympic Committee assures us that Olympic flame harkens back to the eternal flames...
  - ...which once burned in the temples of Ancient Greece - where the Olympic Games began.
  - And as we consider the relay runners who are required to keep on course - so that they can light the Olympic Cauldron...
  - ...we must not fail to grasp the spiritual parallel - that Paul presented - in his letter to the church in Corinth.

## II. Outline

### • Points

- Course
  - Here in our text today - - we find Paul - appealing to the discipline of the Olympian runners - and fighters...
  - ...in order to help his audience to understand the importance of becoming disciplined disciples - who keep on course with Christ.
  - And as we study these scriptures - we'll begin to see that...
    1. ...the Christian Course includes the Correct Race
    2. ...the Christian Course includes the Correct Goal
    3. ...the Christian Course includes the Correct Fight
  - With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 9...
  - ...where we find Paul - encouraging the original recipients - to keep on course with the Christian faith.

### III. Race

- Set up
- Context

- As we make our way to the ninth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take some time to put our text - back into it's context.
- Remember - Paul was addressing the questions that the Christians in Corinth previously presented.
- This included questions about marriage and singleness - as well as questions concerning eating meats offered to idols.
- It was back in the beginning of this chapter - where Paul addressed the question about financial support for full time ministers.
- And now - here in our text today - we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth...
- ...to make sure that they were keeping on course - according to the Christian faith.
- With this as our goal - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 9 - beginning there at verse 24 - where Paul declared...

### ● Text

1Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

1Co 9:25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

1Co 9:26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

1Co 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- Course

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - comparing the Christian faith - to a race that took place in a Greek stadium.
- As a matter of fact - the word - race - found there in verse 24 was translated from the Greek word - stadion...
  - ...which is the basis for our English word - Stadium.
  - And just to be clear - a stadion - was a the measurement used at the Stadium at Olympia - which was one stadion in length.
  - And it's for this reason that - the Greek word - stadion - can also be rendered - race course.
- Rules
  - It's for this reason that John Darby rendered verse 24 in this way...

1Co 9:24     Know ye not that they who run in the race-course run all, but one receives the prize? Thus run in order that ye may obtain.

  - Here in Darby's translation - we learn that Paul wasn't just referring to a race...
  - ...but - he was referring to the course - that runners were required to follow - in order to win the race.
    - This course was a straight race - which was roughly 192 meters - from one end of the stadium to the other.
    - The course also included a starting line - which every runner was required to line up behind.
    - And listen - the runners who jumped the gun - would be whipped by local officials.
  - More Rules

- As for the runners - the Athletes were required to train for 10 months prior to the games...
- ...with the final month of training taking place in the region of Elis - under the supervision of the official judges.
- And in this way - the athletes who were approved for competition - knew exactly what was expected of them.
  - This included the requirement - for runners to remain within their pre-assigned lanes which were 4 feet wide - from start to finish.
  - And listen - any athlete who stepped outside of the assigned lane was subject to disqualification.
  - We'll talk more about this - when we get to the third point of our study.
- Obtain
- For now - we should consider what Paul meant - when he compared the Christian faith - to an Olympic race course.
- Look with me again - there at verse 24 - where he asked...

1Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

- In other words - the athletes who compete in a stadium compete - are determined to win the prize.
- They train for 10 months - in preparation for the competition - and then - they line up on the starting line - with the goal of gaining the prize.
- And it's here in our text today - where Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth...
  - ...to run the race that is before us - like Olympic athletes - who are competing to win.

- And with this as the goal - we'll all do well to realize that - Christians can easily get knocked off course.
- Run
  - In order to explain my point - let's consider how the Christians in Galatia - were hindered from running their race.
  - It's in Galatians chapter 5 - verses 7 and 8 - where Paul declared...

Gal 5:7        You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Gal 5:8        This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.

- According to Paul - the Christians in Galatia started their race well.
  - But rather than continuing on course - - they ended up stumbling from the race that was set before them...
  - ...and the reason why was because - a group of false teachers had hindered them from obeying the truth.
  - And what this means is that - Christians can be knocked off course...
    - ...by the false teachers - who have been sent by Satan - to stumble those who are running this race of faith.
- Teammates
  - And listen - there are not only times when Christians are knocked off course by the enemy...
  - ...but there are also times when Christians are hindered from running their race - because of another believer.
  - It's not uncommon for well-meaning Christians to stumble a brother or sister in Christ.
  - And it's sad to say that - there are many who have been knocked off course...

- ...after receiving unbiblical counsel from another believer.
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to run with endurance - by keeping our eye on Jesus.

• Hebrews

- Let's consider how Paul put it - in the letter he sent to the Hebrew believers of the first century.
- Hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Hebrews chapter 12...
- ...and as we make our way to the 12th chapter of Hebrews - I wanna take a moment to provide you with some context.
- You see - Paul was encouraging his kinsmen - by reminding them about the incredible faith of the Old Testament Saints.
  - This included the faith of Abel and Abraham - as well as Enoch and Noah.
  - Paul reminded them about the incredible faith of Isaac and Jacob - as well as David and Samuel.
  - Then - after reminding them about the Old Testament Saints - Paul encouraged his kinsmen to run their race with endurance.

## ● Application

- Endurance
- Let's consider how he put it - here in Hebrews 12 - look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

Heb 12:1 ...we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging the Hebrew believers of the first century...
- ...to run the race that was set before them - - by keeping their focus on Christ Jesus.
- The reason why is because - those who try to run this race - in the strength of their flesh - will fail.
- Conversely - those who run this race by faith in Jesus Christ - will receive the spiritual strength we need - to stay on course.
- That being the case - I encourage you to look unto Jesus - because Christ Jesus alone can help us keep on course.
- Correct
- And listen - it's not just about the endurance we need to run this race...
- ...but - - it's also about the divine guidance we need - to recognize the narrow path that's before us.
- Unlike the clearly marked race course that is found in an Olympic Stadium...
- ...the race that has been set before the believer - isn't clearly marked with white lines.
- And knowing how easy it is for us to be hindered from running well - - those who want to make sure that we're on the correct course...
- ...must look unto Jesus - - because - Jesus is the author and the finisher of our faith.

- And those who look to the Lord to lead them - will run the correct race - as we keep on Course with Christ Jesus.

- Transition

- Points

1. And while it's true that the Christian Course includes the Correct Race...

2. ...the Christian Course also includes the Correct Goal

- With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 9...
- ...where we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth - to keep on course - by pursuing the correct goal.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 24 - where Paul asked...

## IV. Goal

- Text

1Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

1Co 9:25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

- Crown
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...those who want to keep on course with Christ - should not only make sure that we're running the correct race...
- ...but - those who want to keep on course with Christ - should also make sure that we have the correct goal.

- To be clear - Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth - to run the race that is set before us...
- ...with the GOAL of obtaining the prize that he presented as the imperishable crown.
- With this as our focus - let's consider the contrast Paul presented between the perishable - and the imperishable crown.
- Crowns
  - The athletes who were competing in the original Olympic Games - were attempting to obtain a crown that would quickly decay.
  - The perishable crown that Paul was referring to was a laurel wreath that Olympic runners would receive if they were first to cross the finish line.
  - And while it's true that the Olympic athletes are currently competing for medals of Bronze - Silver and Gold...
  - ...these awards are still perishable trophies - which will eventually dissolve on the day when the elements melt with fervent heat.
    - In contrast to this - those who run the race - by faith in Jesus Christ will eventually obtain an imperishable crown...
    - ...on the day when we stand before the Bema seat of Jesus Christ.
      - And listen - there are 4 more crowns that Christians who keep on course - can obtain.
  - Crown of Rejoicing
    - For example - it's in 1st Thessalonians chapter 2 - where Paul mentioned the crown of rejoicing - it's verses 19 and 20 - where he asked...

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

1Th 2:20 For you are our glory and joy.

- From this - we can see that - there is a crown of rejoicing - for those who lead unbelievers to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- And what this means is that - the believer who wants to obtain this crown...
  - ...should spend time presenting the gospel message of grace - as we run the race that is set before us.
  - And as we make it our goal - to lead the lost - to the Lord Jesus Christ...
  - ...we will eventually receive the crown of rejoicing - as we stand before the Bema seat of our Savior - Jesus.

- Crown of Righteousness

- Paul also mentioned the crown of righteousness - in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 6 - where he declared...

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- Now - in order to understand this crown of righteousness - it's important to realize that...
- ...this is not a crown - which will be given to those who were able to achieve a state of self-righteousness...
- ...no - instead - the crown of righteousness - will be given to those who received the imputation of Christ's righteousness.

- And while this is true of every Christian - there is a special crown of righteousness...
  - ...for the believer who finishes their race - without being disqualified.
- Crown of Glory
- The apostle Peter also promised a crown of glory - to the pastors who finish well - - it's in 1st Peter 5 - beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Pe 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

1Pe 5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

1Pe 5:4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **the crown of glory** that does not fade away.

- The apostle Peter was encouraging every elder to accomplish their calling - by leading the Christians - committed to their care.
- Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the title - elder - in this context is synonymous with the title - pastor - or shepherd.
  - Therefore - Peter was challenging every pastor - to submit themselves to the chief shepherd - Jesus Christ.
  - In this way - the elder of the church will lead by example - as we serve the Lord as overseers - who shepherd the flock.
  - And according to Peter - the pastor who leads the flock in this way - will receive **the crown of glory** that does not fade away.
- Crown of Life

- Finally - the Lord Jesus mentioned the crown of life - in Revelation chapter 2 beginning at verse 8 - He declared..

Rev 2:8 "...to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Rev 2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be **faithful until death**, and I will give you **the crown of life**.

Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - assuring the hearts of those - who were about to become martyrs for their faith.
  - Knowing that they were about to experience an extremely painful death...
  - ...the Lord Jesus refocused their attention - by reminding them about the reward that they would receive in the after life.
  - And according to the Lord - the believer who is faithful in martyrdom will receive the crown of life.
  - Therefore - I want to encourage every Christian to keep on course - even if it costs us our lives.
- Obtain
  - As we consider these five crowns - - it's crucial for Christians to realize that - we might not obtain these prizes.
  - Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the word - obtain - found there in the middle of verse 25...

- ...was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who take possession of something...
- ...like a hunter that captures his prey - or a fisherman who catches a fish.
- In the context of these verses - Paul was referring to the athletes who were striving to acquire the trophy that they desire.
- And knowing that the perishable crown would only be obtained by the winner - they were all competing for the same prize.
- In light of their example - Paul encouraged Christians to keep on course - with the same passion for obtaining the prize.
- Competition?
- Let's consider again how he put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 24 - where Paul asked...

1Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

1Co 9:25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

1Co 9:26a Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty.

- Now - I wanna stop right here so that we can consider what Paul meant - when he informed his audience...
- ...that he was running the race - NOT with uncertainty.
  - In other words - rather than running aimlessly - like a person with no purpose...
  - ...Paul ran the race that was set before him - like an Olympic athlete who was determined to obtain the imperishable crown.
  - And with this as the goal - Paul was keeping on course - according to the commands of Christ Jesus.

- Rules

- Let's consider how Paul explained it - in 2nd Timothy chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 3 - where he declared...

2Ti 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2Ti 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

2Ti 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

- Christians have not only been called to serve our Savior - like an enlisted soldier...
- ...but - we've also been called to keep on course with Christ - so that we can obtain the crowns...
- ...that have been promised to those who run the race with endurance.
  - And with this as the goal - it's crucial for every Christian to realize that...
  - ...those who want to acquire the prize - must fix our focus on the finish line.

- Application

- Goal

- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Philippians chapter 3 - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Phl 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Phl 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Phl 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

- Rather than focusing on those things that are behind - - the runner who wants to obtain the prize - must focus on the finish line.
- And knowing that many Christians fix their focus on the mistakes of the past...
- ...Paul encouraged us to reach forward toward those things which are ahead...
- ...by fixing our focus on the finish line - as we strive for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- And with this as our focus - born-again believers will keep on course - by pressing toward the correct goal.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- This brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
  1. ...the Christian who wants to keep on Course should not only run the Correct Race...
  2. ...and the Christian who wants to keep on Course should not only press towards the Correct Goal...
  3. ...but - the Christian who wants to keep on Course should engage in the Correct Fight.
    - With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 9.
    - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 24 - where Paul asked...

## V. Fight

### • Text

1Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

1Co 9:25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

1Co 9:26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

1Co 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

### • Fight

- Here in the final verses of this chapter - we find Paul - shifting our focus - from Olympic runners - to Olympic fighters.
- That word - fight - found there in the middle of verse 26 was translated from a Greek word - *pykteuō*...
- ...which was used of the who engaged in the ancient combat sport of Greek boxing.
  - It was back in 688 BC - when Pugilism was first introduced to the ancient Olympic Games - during the 23rd Olympiad.
  - And while many fights would end by knockout or submission - some fighters would fight to the death.
  - It's for this reason that Olympic fighters practiced in the gymnasium using a punching bag - in order to prepare for the fight.
- Fight
- With this in mind - we should consider the point that Paul was making - there in verse 26 - where he declared...

1Co 9:26 I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

- Much like an Olympic runner - who spends time training - so that they can obtain the prize...
- ...the Olympic pugilist realized that they needed to engage in real training - before they committed themselves to this brutal competition.
- And in a similar - yet spiritual way - the Christian who wants to keep on course with Christ...
- ...must recognize the importance of engaging in real - hands on training.
  - And the reason why is because - we have a real enemy - who wants to devour the disciples of Christ.
- Devoured
- Proof of my point can be found in 1st Peter chapter 5 - - it's beginning at verse 8 - where the apostle Peter declared...

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- Christian - listen - the devil and his demons - are prowling around - looking for disciples who are easily devoured.
- It's for this reason that the apostle Peter encouraged every Christian to resist the enemy.
- And just to be clear - Peter wasn't encouraging us to engage in a physical fight - with the demonic forces that are attacking us.
- No - instead - we resist the devil and his demons - by standing with our Savior - steadfast in the faith.

- And as we stand steadfast in the faith - the Lord Jesus will empower us to win this fight.
- Wrestle
- I like the way that Paul explained it - in Ephesians chapter 6 - it's beginning at verse 10 - where he declared...

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- Now - when Paul informed his audience - that we aren't fighting against flesh and blood...
- ...he was helping us to realize that - our enemy isn't a human - who was created in the image of God.
  - Our enemy is NOT a far left liberal with the nose ring and pink hair - NOR is
    - Our enemy is NOT the Marxist who mocks our Messiah - and our enemy is NOT the Jew - who trying to control our government.
    - Our enemy is NOT the illegal immigrant who is trying to make a living here in America...
    - ...and our enemy is NOT the ICE agents who are doing the same thing that ICE agents have done - since 2003.
- Immaterial

- According to Paul - the enemy that we are engaging - are actually immaterial entities - who want to lead us astray.
- And it's for this reason that he tells us that...

Eph 6:12 ...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Paul was describing the hierarchy of immaterial beings - who are helping Satan to lead the world into deception.
- And you better believe that they want to destroy the lives of the disciples who are determined to fight the good fight of faith.
  - That being the case - we must not only become believers who are sober - and vigilant - so that we can stand steadfast in the faith...
  - ...but - those who trust in the Lord Jesus - should also put on the full armor of God...
    - ...so that we can continue to stand - toe to toe - against the devil and his demons.

- Faith
  - With all of this in mind - let's consider the encouragement Paul presented - in 1st Timothy chapter 6 - it's verse 12 - where he declared...

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- From this - we can see that the Christian faith is not only a race that we've been called to run...
- ...but - the Christian faith is also a fight that we must engage in - each and every day.

- And what this means is that - those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...
- ...are going to wrestle - every day - with an immaterial enemy - who is trying to lead us deny our confession of faith.
  - And not only that - but the enemy will also try to destroy the church by creating division amongst disciples.
- Devour
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Galatians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 12 - where he declared...

Gal 5:12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- Paul was challenging the Christians in Galatia - and the reason why was because...
- ...they were allowing false teachers - to come in and cause division amongst the disciples of Christ.
- And so - rather than standing together - against the schemes of Satan...
- ...the Christians in Galatia started fighting the wrong fight - as they started treating one another as enemies.
- And it's sad to say that there are many disciples who end up being disqualified - - because - they're fighting the wrong fight.
- Disqualified

- With this as our focus - let's consider how Paul put it here in our text today - look with me again - there at verse 27 - where Paul declared...

1Co 9:27 ...I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
- ...it's possible for the disciples of Christ Jesus to be disqualified from this spiritual battle that we find ourselves in the middle of.
- Much like an Olympic athlete who ends up being disqualified - after breaking the rules of their specific discipline...
- ...the Christian who is called to run the race - - and fight the good fight...
- ...can also be disqualified - for failing to Keep on Course - according to the discipline of the Christian faith.

- Discipline

- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged his audience to keep on course - by first identifying the personal deficiencies that could disqualify us.
- Look with me again - there at verse 27 - where he declared...

1Co 9:27 ...I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
- ...the real fight that we must win - is the fight against our fleshly desires.
- And while it's true that the enemy is doing his best to entice our flesh - so that we might be disqualified...

- ...it's also true that the Holy Spirit is ready to help us to bring our bodies into subjection...
- ...so that we can continue to fight the good fight of faith - for the glory of God.

- Application
- Weapons

- With this as our goal - let's consider the weapons that we've been given - so that we can keep on course with Christ.
- It's in 2nd Corinthians chapter 10 - beginning at verse 3 - where Paul declared...

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

2Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

2Co 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

2Co 10:6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
- ...the Lord has given us mighty weapons - which enable us to cast down every argument that is opposed to the Christian faith.
- And He's given us the ability to overthrow everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
- And just to be clear - He's given us the sword of the spirit - which is the word of God...
- ...so that we can take every thought captive - to the obedience of Christ.

- Thoughts
  - Christian - listen - those who want to fight the good fight of faith - must realize that...
  - ...the enemy typically begins this attack - by leading us to question the truth of God's word.
  - And much like Eve - who was deceived by the subtle lies of the serpent...
  - ...many Christians end up being disqualified - simply because we fail to use the sword of the Spirit - to protect our minds.
  - That being the case - I encourage every Christian to realize that - those who want to keep on course with Christ - must fight the correct fight.
  - And the best way to fight the correct fight - is to make sure that we are bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...
  - ...according to the doctrinal truths that we find in the word of God.

## VI. Conclusion

- Wrap up
- Points
  - Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
  - ...those who have been saved - by faith in Jesus Christ - have also been called to keep on course with Christ.
  - And with this as the goal - I encourage you to remember that...
    1. ...the Christian who wants to keep on Course should run the Correct Race...

2. ...the Christian who wants to keep on Course should also press towards the Correct Goal...
3. ...And the Christian who wants to keep on Course should engage in the Correct Fight.
  - And knowing that those who keep on course with Christ - will receive eternal rewards - that include the imperishable crown...
  - ...I encourage every Christian to run with endurance the race that is set before us...
  - ...as we look unto Jesus - the author and finisher of our faith - because - He alone can help us to keep on course.