

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (November 7, 2021)
FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

The Holidays are upon us! As soon as Halloween is here, I feel like I am entering a race that doesn't end until January! Now don't get me wrong, it's all good things: family, food, celebration, fun. But the pace of life picks up and I'm running, running, running to the "tape" of January 1st.

Is this the race Paul is talking about in his letter to the Corinthians? In the three passages we will be looking at Paul describes different aspects of racing as it relates to our life in Christ. He was well acquainted with the ancient games of the Olympiad we now know as the Olympics where running a race was central. The discipline of training, the setting up of a goal, and most of all the "prize" to be won were foremost on his mind.

But he leaves it to us to define our race with Christ as we pursue the call and reach for the "prize". So, what does that mean for us here at Grace of Christ? We have run well but our race is not finished yet!!

Come run with me this Sunday through God's word and be encouraged to "look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith"!

The Race Of Grace (sermon passage 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

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 ^aobtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes *for the prize* ^bis temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an* imperishable *crown*. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Why does Paul encourage the church of Corinthian to run the race?
2. What is the price we will obtain if we win this race?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Why is living with a purpose very important?
4. What is the value of disciplining our bodies to preach the gospel to others?
5. What would happen to me if I didn't run the race that Paul is talking about in this passage?
6. What did the apostle Paul mean by being disqualified?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. Do you feel that God is speaking to you through this scripture?
8. Do you believe in you heart that God is going to help you reach the imperishable crown?
9. Why is it so important to pray to ask God to remove all the weight of sin so that we can run the race better?
10. Why is fixing our eyes on Jesus will guarantee us the victory?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to supply your faith. Ask God to help you be a peacemaker not someone who quarrels. Pay for someone you know that you are currently divided from. God loves us, and He will help us.