

Run the Race – Approaching the Finish Line

November 13-14, 2021

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV) – “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”.

“I am telling you if there is a God, when I get to heaven, I’m not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It’s not even close” – **Michael Bloomberg**

“The second you think you’ve arrived, someone passed you. You have to always be in pursuit” – **Joe Torre**

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NIV) – “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever”.

“**prize**” = Greek *brabeion* – “the reward for being judged the victor; from *brabeuo* meaning “to umpire”

Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV) – “I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead”.

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“The truth is, although the head and heart are only eighteen inches from each other, most of us spend our entire lives trying to make a genuine connection between what we profess to believe in our heads and what we actually believe in our hearts” – *Maria Durso*

John 15:18-21 (NIV) – “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master’. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me”.

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) – “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money”.

1 John 2:15,17 (NIV) – “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them – The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever”.

Revelation 21:1 (NIV) – “Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth’, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea”.

Isaiah 65:17 (NIV) - “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind”.

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“Perhaps we are fortunate. We suffered so much and have so little that Christianity is the most attractive option we see in life. If we were secure and well supplied, as we hear of Christians in other places, we might be much less sincere in our discipleship” – from *Bold as a Lamb*, Ken Anderson

2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV) – “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction”.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NIV) – “For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry”.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) - “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching”.

“**meeting together**” = Greek *episunagogue* – “synagogue; assembly; gathering”