

## Starting Lines

### Race to Win

*I Corinthians 9:24-27 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. 25 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. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

### How to Run My God-Given Race

#### Run **all out**

*v. 24 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.*

#### Run **to win**

*Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*v. 19-22 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*

#### Run **with discipline**

*v. 25 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.*

*I Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

#### Run **with purpose**

*v. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.*

Run **prepared to suffer pain**

*v. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave....*

Run **right to avoid missing out on the rewards**

*v. 27 .....so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

**Additional Study**

Monday Colossians 3:17-24 and Ecclesiastes 9:10

Tuesday I Peter 1:3-4 and 2 Peter 3:13-14

Wednesday Isaiah 40:28-31

Thursday Psalm 37:23-24 and Proverbs 11:30

Friday 2 Timothy 4:5-8