

On your Mark, Get Set, Go

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Andrew P: REAL. 3-5th Camp. Children's. Bulgaria. [also welcome Lasters hm]
- B. Slide6 Children at Risk - Cory Nickols/Destiny Rescue.
- C. Slide7 Mothers Day: *Story*: 2 women God blessed with Motherhood.
 1. You know who started the Exodus? No, not Moses. No, not a man.
 2. And it's interesting that the new king/pharaoh of Egypt isn't even named, simply, *there was the new king over Egypt*. [oppressors don't deserve to be named]
 3. But 2 people are named. They were the 2 who *started the Exodus*. They become the *heroes* of the story. And they were *nobodies*. *Not royalty. Not rich. Not famous*. Just 2 *midwives*...that were *brave & courageous*. God gives their names (Shiphrah & Pu-ah *aka fair & splendid, or beautiful & fragrant*).
 - a) The *no named king of Egypt* commanded them to *kill* all *baby boys* birthed to the Hebrew women. *But they feared God & couldn't do it. Why have you done this? The Heb women pop em out so quick b4 we can even get there.*
 - b) These 2 women said... *No to Pharaoh. No to power. No to oppression. No to injustice. No to the killing of babies. So they could say Yes to God.*
 - c) *This is where courage begins. And because they feared God, He provided families for them.* (God rewarded them w/the gift of *Motherhood*) *She girds her hands with strength... She reaches out her hands to the needy.* Prov.31:17,20
 - d) *Moms*, thanks for your courage/bravery, saying *No* to other things & *yes* to God.

II. Slide8a Intro: On your Mark, Get Set, Go [ready/aim/fire. lights/camera/action]

A 3-command start when racing: *on your mark* (get on your lane/spot) *get set* (get to starting position) *go!* (take off)

- A. The 1st part of the chapter we talked about our *Salvation*. Now Our *Sanctification* (12-16) then Our *Glorification* (17-21).
 1. First Paul had to deal with his *identity*. Which is...*stripping away what you are known for, and what's left is who you are*. [this takes self-reflection]

2. Once our **identity** is found *in Jesus*, we realize I'm loved/I don't have to perform. I'm *imago dei*. It's not about who your parents said you **were**, but who God says you **are**. It's grasping the value & worth God has placed on you.
 - a) In counseling we focus on *their broken sense of identity* not on *fixing the sin*. If we fix their sin of *drunkenness*, what if they just replace that w/another addiction, *i.e.* gambling. [showing them **Jesus**, not just as a *Savior*, but as their *ultimate Authority*]
 3. Slide8b Once we have *a new identity* (see vs.9) then we have a *new perspective, new motivation, new goal, new mind, a new example, & one day a new home, & a new body*.
- B. Is the the Christian life a **quick success**? No, just ask the Missionary or an older saint. Is life a **quick success**? No, just ask the Med student. The single mom juggling *a job, a child, & a few classes in college*. The Marathoner. *Better yet* ask the *Ultra Marathoner*.
1. Slide9 Ultra marathon = 544 miles. From 1983-1991 one was held in Australia, *The Westfield Sydney to Melbourne Ultramarathon*. In 1983, 150 top athletes from around the world, most under 30 years of age were competing.
 2. Then appearing out of the crowd was a **61-year-old potato farmer** wearing *overalls and rubber work boots* (gumboots) **Cliff Young**. Most thought he was *a spectator, however he came to run*. He also had this lil shuffle. The runners run for 18 hours & sleep 6. Cliff ran straight through, only stopping for *water and bathroom breaks*.
 3. On the last night of the race, to everyone's surprise, Cliff was not only still in the race, but he was in the lead. After 5 days, 15 hours, and 4 min's of *continuous running*, 61-year-old potato farmer **Cliff Young** not only completed the race but he **won**. [almost 10 hours ahead of the next runner]
 - a) Come to find out he gained his running endurance and style as a kid on the farm. They had 2000 head of sheep and he would have to round them up because they couldn't afford horses (during the depression), sometimes running for 2 days straight.
 - b) He told reports later, *he would just picture himself running after the sheep, trying to outrun a storm*.
 4. He also found out that the prize was \$10,000, which she distributed equally among the 5 runners that finished behind him, *keeping nothing for himself*.

5. The **Young Shuffle** has been adopted by some ultra-marathon runners because it expends less energy.

C. **But** you might think... I'm not the best Christian. I make mistakes. I fall down. I don't do **all** of life right. Actually, ***I do most of life wrong***. I'm slow... great... ***just shuffle*** :) It's not as sprint, it's an ultra marathon.

III. Slide10a **OUR SANCTIFICATION (12-16)**

A. **A NEW PERSPECTIVE** (12a) *a holy dissatisfaction*

B. (nlt) *I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. [*If Paul didn't have it all figured out, then neither does any preacher today. And Neither do I, neither do you]*

1. **Perfection? Wait, I'm out!** - Many believers think God is producing *specimens of holiness* to put in His museum. **But** we are called to live our lives in such a way we produce a yearning for God *in the lives of others not admiration for myself*.

C. I believe our *sanctification/our going hard after God* is simpler than we make it...

1. Love God. Love your family. Love the person in front of you. Oh and love the *creepy people*.

2. Yes God *so loved the whole entire world*, **but** the way He showed it was through His Son Jesus *one on one* (woman at the well, mtg Nick at night, a creepy naked possessed man, a blind man, a rich young guy, a lady with a seeping wound).

3. We need to just show people who Jesus is by what we **do**, **not** just tell them what we **think**. People don't always need **more information** **but** instead they need **an example**.

4. Isn't life about figuring out who **I am** and who **God really is**?

a) **But** often, our **words** say we're one person (think *our social media*), **but** our **lives** say we're someone else.

b) **Jesus** is the only One who can let us know the **truth** about **both**.

D. Slide10b **A NEW MOTIVATION** (12b) *forward*

E. **Press On** - *keep on the chase, run after, pursue.*

1. The Philippians were near to *the famous Greek games* played on Corinth's **Isthmus**, the *Isthmian Games*.
2. In 1st part of this chapter, the start gun went off for Paul (told of his salvation). Paul's now on his 20th mile, of his 26 mile life Marathon.
 - a) Oh, he's tripped along the way, **but** he always gets up.
 - b) **He gets off pace**, sometimes slowing down, sometimes at a pace too fast, but he stays at his race, & runs on to completion.
 - c) The crowd yells, *Paul you're an Apostle, you must be finished with you race.* He responds, *No way...my race isn't over yet...**I Press on.***

F. **Press on** [διώκω dioko] - interesting it's the same word as *persecuting* up in vs.6, *concerning zeal persecuting the church* [concerning zeal he **pressed** the church].

1. **I persecuted/I press** - *The same energy I put into **ruining** The church, I now put into **running** the church.*

G. **What mile of the race are you on?** - **How's your pace?**

1. Sometimes running can get **monotonous**, **but** take heart...you're on *the **Right Road.*** **And** if your on the *right road* you'll get to the *right destination.*
2. **Don't focus on yesterday:** **either** on your *accomplishments* (which can lead to **pride**) **nor** on your *failures* (which can lead to unnecessary **guilt**).

H. **Press on** - [Press Toward *the Eternal Tape*]

- l. You're tired, it's your last lap, you're out of energy, need water, sweating hard, you want to give up...*Press on.*
 1. **Press on** in your marriage. **Press on** in your finances. **Press on** in your studies. **Press on** in your job situation. **Press on** *High Schoolers* in your final exams coming up. **Press on** *Mother's* in your grief's & hardships. **Press on** in your relationship with your relatives. **Press on** in your life goals. **Press on** in your serving. **Press on** in your pilgrimage.
 - a) **And why** do we press on? Because **Jesus** pressed on **all the way** to the cross.
 - b) **And how** do we press on? Because we *know Him & the power of His res.*

J. Slide10c **A NEW GOAL** (13,14)

K. **Forgetting** - *to dismiss from the mind; to stop remembering.*

1. Used for a runner **not looking back** once passing another runner; **instead** focusing on **the tape** set before him.

L. **So forget/put out of your mind/stop remembering anything** in your **background** which hinders your pursuit of God.

1. Don't take this to mean that **memory** has no place in our spiritual artillery. **It does.** Some battles are won by remembered mercies (Psalm 77:10,11).

2. **The point is not: never look back. The point is: only look back** for the sake of pressing forward.

M. **In your race of life is there something you need to stop remembering?** Do you know that **looking back** only slows up **your race**? Do you know the best way to **get even** is to **forget**?

1. **Today is the day** to **stop remembering** & **put it behind you.**

N. **Reaching Forward** - *leaning, stretching, straining.* [like a runner leaning forward]

1. The drivers of the Chariot Races in the Isthmian Games stood on **a small round disk**, wheel on each side, no rail, pulled by a horse or 2.

a) Straining, leaning forward, w/every nerve & muscle to try to stay on.

2. **Does this intensity describe your race? Are you making deliberate progress in your life?** [**stretch, strain, strive for the prize**]

O. **Goal** - *skopos.* **A goal understood as a target that one aims a weapon at.**

1. It's our English word **scope** ⊕ - Fix on it. Lock on it.

2. Paul has turned the last curve & now is in the home stretch where he can see **the goal.** **What are your eyes fixed on?**

a) Heb.12:2 **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

b) **Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.**

P. **I press toward the goal for the prize** -

1. One defined this as, **The goal continually moving forward as we press on, but yet never out of sight.**

- a) At 1st I thought, *how mean of God to be backing up as we are pressing forward.*
 Then I pictured a father getting a toddler to walk. (eg) The **toddler** leaves the couch behind him, walks wobbly to the parent, stumbling a few times along the way. The father picks him up, gets him balanced, & he starts again. Never giving up, for he longs to be with the father.

2. Prize? The prize is **Christlikeness**.

Q. Slide10d **A NEW MIND** (15,16)

R. Stuart Briscoe described these 2 verses this way, *I am **mature/complete in the sense that I have grown as far as I can at the present, & I am ready for the next lesson.***

S. **Maturing** - (Story) High in the Alps is a **monument** raised in honor of *a faithful guide who perished while ascending a peak to **rescue** a stranded tourist.* Inscribed on that memorial stone are these words: **HE DIED CLIMBING**. A maturing, growing Christian should have the same kind of attitude, *right up to the end of life.* [I want to fail trying]

T. Note the shift from **I** to **us** (re-read, note: *us, many, we us, us*)

1. Paul very graciously allows them to **grow at their own pace**.

2. The race is not Solo. We're running as a team.

- a) **Some runners** in a race run by & don't even acknowledge you're there, **others** encourage you along.
- b) Have you heard of **Heartbreak Hill** in the Boston Marathon. It's at the 20 mile mark (26m, 385yds). In 1936 defending champ **John Kelley** caught **Ellison Tarzan Brown** & gave him a consolatory pat on the back as he passed. His competitive drive apparently stoked by this gesture, Tarzan Brown rallied, pulled away from Kelley, and went on to **win** and in the words of Boston Globe reporter "*breaking Kelley's heart*". Thus, Heartbreak Hill.
- c) **Help others to keep the high standard.** Help others along.

IV. Slide11a **OUR GLORIFICATION (17-21)**

A. **A NEW EXAMPLE** (17-19)

B. **Example** - *to mark & follow Paul the pace setter.* Lightfoot

1. Paul is like **the rabbit** that sets the pace in the larger races.
- C. How do we choose a mentor? John Maxwell said, *A leader (to follow) is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.*
- D. Enemies of the cross? (18) *Who?* Anyone who denies the crosses value.
- E. Slide 11b **A NEW HOME** (20)
- F. For our citizenship is in heaven - Some translate *we are a colony of heaven.*
- G. **Citizenship/Colony** - Rome would normally send out 300 veteran soldiers who served their time, w/their families, & settle them in a strategic location.
1. They would speak Roman **language**, wear Roman **dress**, have Roman **ceremonies**, & Roman **customs**. They were stubbornly & unalterably ROMAN.
 2. Paul is saying, *Just as the Roman colonists never forget that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are citizens of heaven; & your conduct must match your citizenship.*
- H. Slide 11c **A NEW BODY** (21)
- I. **Our Lowly body** - Low back pains, headaches, toothaches, cracks & creaks.
- J. **His Glorious body** - **If you Picture:** The feeling of a warm shower on a cold morning. Laying down after a hard day. The feeling of drinking down cold water after a good work out. A time when you've said, *I feel great...yah, it's nothing like that!...It's 10 billion times better!!!*
1. We are a **Heaven-bound people** in a **Hell-bound world**.
- K. **Very End:** *On your Mark* (stay in your lane) *Get Set* (starting position) *Go* (be world changers!)