

Run the Race

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Intro: This morning I want to challenge you to look at your life and ask the question: “How am I running this race of faith set before me?” Some of you have been running for decades while others have been running for a few weeks.

- **Let’s Look at What Paul Said About This Race.**
 - Acts 20:22-24

- **Video Clip**

- **This Race is a Distance Race**
 - It seems quite apparent to me that this race is a long one with many miles and hills to run. I’ve been following Christ for over 11 years now and I don’t see this race getting any shorter for me.

- **How Are We Supposed To Run This Race?**
 - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- **Are You Running To Get The Prize?**
 - **Ex:** Build Your Castles In The Air

 - Paul is challenging your perspective on life, not your position in life. He was telling the Corinthians to pull out all the stops.

 - Jesus himself said that following him would cost our life, so it is vital that we catch that running for prize should be our goal.

- **To Get The Prize You Must Sacrifice Temporary Pleasures**
 - Verse 25

 - You and I must run with tomorrow in mind.

- Philippians 3:14 says “I press on toward the goal to which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
- Some of the best decisions I have made in my life have come after I have asked the question “How is this going to affect me 5 years from now?”
- We miss great opportunities in the Lord when we settle down into habits that aren’t helping us get to the finish line with purpose.
- **Ex:** You having things or things having you
- **Ex:** Developing the leader In You, Pg 30.
- **To Get The Prize You Must Push Through The Pain of The Race.**
 - Verse 27
 - **Ex:** My 1st and 2nd CC races.
- **To Get the Prize You Must not Get Disqualified.**
 - Verse 27b.
 - Hurting fellow runners will get you disqualified.
 - **Ex:** CC Running and elbows
 - Stepping Out of bounds will get you disqualified
 - **Ex:** CC Swain meet

Closing Thoughts: This morning we’ve seen how this Christian life is a distance race and that it requires a long haul. We’ve also seen that we need to run this race to get the prize. In order to do this we must sacrifice temporary pleasures, push through the pain and not get disqualified. How are you running the race this morning?