

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Run the Race With Self-Control

by Bob DeWaay

December 3, 2023

## **Run to Make the Prize Yours**

### 1 Corinthians 9:24 (LEB)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

Do you not know that those who run in the stadium all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

- The famous Isthmian Games were held every other year in Corinth
- The third use of "run" here is imperative

ggf.church

• The prize for us is eschatological glory

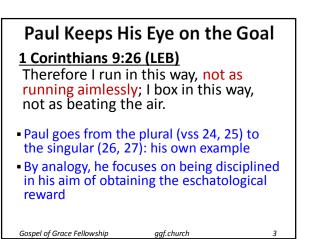
## A Lesser to Greater Argument

### 1 Corinthians 9:25 (LEB)

And everyone who competes exercises self-control in all things. Thus those do so in order that they may receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.

- Self-control is necessary to win the prize
- Contrast: perishable versus imperishable
- For them only one wins; all Christians run to participate in imperishable glory

ggf.church



## **Discipline for Gospel Purposes**

## 1 Corinthians 9:27 (LEB)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

But I discipline my body and subjugate it, lest somehow after preaching to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- "Disqualified" should be seen in light of the warnings in chapters 8 and 10
- The body is not in itself the center of sin
- The whole person is subject to temptation

### Gospel of Grace Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ ggf.church

# Implications and Applications

- The one prize for Christians is the inheritance of eschatological glory
- We must focus on the eternal goal throughout our lives in Christ and never give up.
- We must reject the values of the pagan world which would take our eyes off of the goal

ggf.church

GOSPEL Grace

www.ggf.church

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

## Present Joy & Future Glory

#### 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (NASB)

For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

- Paul mentions the "crown" which here denotes the victor's wreath
- Hope in this context is certain due to God's promises

ggf.church

Present joy also anticipates the parousia

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

## Focus on the Eternal Goal

### Philippians 3:13-14 (NASB)

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

ggf.church

## **Reject False Eschatology**

### 2 Timothy 2:19 (NASB)

Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

- Context: Hymenaeus and Philetus heresy
- Paul alludes to Numbers 16:5; 26ff where Korah and company were judged
- The solid foundation is revealed truth

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church

Believe God's Future Promises 2 Timothy 4:8 (NASB) ...in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His

Believing literal eschatological promises is mocked by many popular preachers

ggf.church

• Loving His appearing is a virtue, not a failure!

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

**GOSPEL**