

The Race I Cor 9:24-27

By Pastor Roy Hogan

*1Co 9:24-27 Know ye not that they which run in a **race** run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

The beginning

Salvation- 1965 I was saved.

Many saved friends whom I observed in the race for the Lord are now at home by the banks of the River of Life. It is required to be saved to enter the race.

It is possible to be saved, never enter the race, and die and go to Heaven. Many are in this category. They have been saved, but chose to never get involved.

The preparation

I met a young man while in college who was a distance runner on the school track team. He told me he practiced for the races by running more than 100 miles every week. There is a preparation needed for the race. Study of God's Word. Participation in the local church. Witnessing in the highways and hedges. Praying faithfully. All these things prepare a child of God for the race.

II Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The opposition

* I am not your enemy. The church down the street is not your enemy. The preacher across town is not my enemy. The bootlegger is not your enemy. The drug dealer is not trying to stop me from

advancing the Gospel. The police force is not your enemy. The person sitting on the pew beside you at church is not your enemy.

* Christianity under attack. Folk are attacking Christianity that do not even know what Christianity stands for. Why? The world hated Christ for no reason. Christ said from the cross: *father forgive them for they know not what they do*. They persecuted him before they persecuted Christians.

This world is under the reign of someone called Satan who is the Prince of the power of the air, the god of this world. The church is not in charge. The redeemed are not in office. Why should we get our way? Why should it not be hard? We are pilgrims and strangers on this planet called earth.

* I only have 2 enemies: the *Devil* and *self*. If I don't finish this race, I won't have far to go to blame someone. I can look over my shoulder and blame the Devil or look in the mirror and blame me.

The competition

* Secularism

That is, desiring the things of the world. The appeal of the world is blind-siding many believers. I John 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

You can't run a race for the Lord riding around in the front seat of the Devil's sportscar.

You can't run a race for the Lord sitting beside the Devil on the sofa watching one of his movies made by infidels in Hollywood.

* Materialism

Gadgets. Cars. Houses and land. Phones. Clothes. Entertainment. Recreation. Desire to *get ahead* of our piers.

* Wrong crowd.

Let's dig up Lot and ask him about the influence the wrong crowd can have.

* Self

My greatest competition is me. Will I do the work of the Lord or cater to the desires of self? I face this question daily.

People have 2 driving forces in their life: a) money (makes u go to work with ice on the ground and a chilling wind) and b) feelings “I just feel like doing that.” “I don’t feel like going.” Unfortunately, *feelings* drive church attendance. *Feelings* drive our Christian service. You and I get paid for serving the Lord just like your boss pays you.

Brother Roloff said: “a person ought to dig a six-foot deep hole beside their house and jump in it first thing each morning and spend a few minutes to remind them that self is dead.”

Acts 20:22 *And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:* Something tied Paul up. Something handcuffed Paul. What was it? He surrendered to God and came bound to God and not to self.

The options

*** Quit**

Demas- 2 Timothy 4:10 *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

2 Thes 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

*** Change**

I Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

*** Finish**

II Timothy 4:7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*