

Not disqualified for the prize

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 p. 929

CONTEXT: Paul invested his life in proclaiming the gospel (9:15-23).

- I. PURSUING A PRIZE: GOD ETERNALLY REWARDS THOSE WHO INVEST IN THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25).
 - A. Not all runners win prizes (9:24a).
 - B. Run your race (live your life) to receive a prize (Eternal rewards – 9:24b; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15).
 - C. Athletes follow strict training for earthly rewards, while we must be spiritually disciplined to gain eternal rewards (9:25).

- II. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE: BUSYNESS IS WASTED WITHOUT AN ETERNAL FOCUS (1 CORINTHIANS 9:26-27).
 - A. Limiting good things: Paul was focused and self-controlled so he wouldn't waste his efforts on simply earthly things (9:26-27).
 - Run aimlessly/beat the air – The danger of wasted efforts
 - B. Doing hard things: Paul made sacrifices knowing Christ would reward his efforts to serve the gospel (9:27; Philippians 3:13-14).
 - Self-control – Avoiding disqualification from the prize