

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

The Most Important Race Ever

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Keith Gove - September 26, 2021

Paul calls the Corinthians (and us) to live like training athletes who are focused on the goal of their efforts. He reminds them that the rewards are infinitely better than any competition, and the consequences more disastrous should we choose not to run the race.

What's the race?

What's the goal?

What's the big deal?

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Reading the Text:

1. What is the connection between 9:1-23 and 9:24-27?
2. In this metaphor, what does the 'race' represent? And what does it mean to 'win' this race?
3. What is Paul's point in using this metaphor - to encourage, to motivate, to warn...?
4. How might Paul himself be disqualified from the 'race'?

Knowing the Full Picture:

5. How do we reconcile passages like this that speak about the effort required in the Christian life, and passages from Jesus like, *'Come all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.'* (Matthew 11:28-30)

Living It Out:

6. Have you ever trained for a race? A sports team? A competitive event? Describe the training process. Why did you put in the effort?
7. In our lives, how do we evaluate our level of effort to help the people around us see Jesus? How do we / can we compare this to the level of athletes or business people we know?
8. How do we keep a healthy perspective of God's power at work in and through us to help others see Jesus, and our choosing to put in effort to help people see Jesus?
9. How can we encourage each other toward maintaining that healthy perspective?