

RUNNER

Select Passages • August 29, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

images

August 1, 2010	“Cup and Bread”
August 8, 2010	“Water Dunking”
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1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NLT) ²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So **run to win!** ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NLT) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Philippians 3:12–14 (NLT) ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NLT) ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

John 1:12 (NLT) ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Philippians 3:12 (NLT) ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

1 John 2:6 (NLT) ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Three Truths:

1) We should _____.

- See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

What does a “win” look like?

a) A “win” is _____.

- See John 1:12

“Getting to heaven” is not about doing more or being good. It is about a choice you make to believe in Jesus and accept His forgiveness of your sins.

b) A “win” is receiving _____
for the good things we have done while on the earth.

c) A “win” is living a _____ where we
become more and more like Jesus.

- See Philippians 3:12 and 1 John 2:6

It is not acceptable for us to simply choose to follow Jesus and then just go through the motions from that point forward.

2) Racing to win requires _____ and
a disciplined life.

- See 1 Corinthians 9:25 and 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Living a godly life requires constant effort and discipline and training on our part.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT) ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT) ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT) ⁷ Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

John 13:34-35 (NLT) ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT) ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

Five important things to be included in our spiritual training:

- a) Spiritual training requires dealing with ongoing _____ and other distractions.
- See Hebrews 12:1
- b) Spiritual training includes _____ for worship and focusing on God's power and goodness and love.
- See Hebrews 10:25
- c) Spiritual training includes _____ with other followers of Christ for encouragement and support.
- d) Spiritual training includes _____ in our knowledge of the teachings in the Bible.
- See 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- e) Spiritual training includes _____ and loving others in Jesus' name.
- See John 13:34-35
- 3) We need to _____ when we experience struggles and difficulties .
- See 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Running your spiritual race will at times be challenging!

It is important that you don't quit before the end of the race.

What do you need to do in response to today's message?

Pastor Mike Newman, senior pastor

1) We should run to win.

a) A “win” is getting to heaven.

b) A “win” is receiving rewards in heaven.

c) A “win” is living a godly life where we become more and more like Jesus.

It is not acceptable for us to simply choose to follow Jesus and then just go through the motions from that point forward.

2) Racing to win requires ongoing training and a disciplined life.

a) Spiritual training requires dealing with ongoing sinful behavior and other distractions.

b) Spiritual training includes gathering for worship and focusing on God's power and goodness and love.

c) Spiritual training includes connecting with other followers of Christ for encouragement and support.

d) Spiritual training includes growing in our knowledge of the teachings of the Bible.

e) Spiritual training includes serving and loving others in Jesus' name.

3) We need to persevere when we experience struggles and difficulties.

**It is important that you don't
quit before the end of the race.**

