Running The Race To Win

Reading - Hebrews 12:1-2

***(1 Corinthians 9:24-25) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. {25} And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.***

***(1 Peter 5:4) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.***

**i. Like it or not, the race is set before us**

The truth is you  have to run, and you’re going to  by default.

***(2 Timothy 2:5) And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.***

***(Acts 10:34-35)*** ***Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. {35} "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.***

***(Matthew 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will*** [plays by the rules] ***of My Father in heaven.***

***(2 Thessalonians 2:7-10) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. {8} And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. {9} The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, {10} and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***

**In order to run you have to**

***(Galatians 3:26-27) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. {27} For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

***(2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

***(Romans 6:4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***

**DILIGENT IS REQUIRED TO WIN.**

***(1 Corinthians 9:26-27 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. {27} But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.***

"**Agonizomai**" is Greek word translated "to compete," "to strive." ***(Luke 13:24) "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.***

# THE RIGHT MIND SET IS

***(1 Corinthians 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.***

***(Ruth 1:16-18) But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. {17} Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." {18} When she*** [Naomi] ***saw that Ruth [she] was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.***

Consider these "mind set" passages: ***(Colossians 3:2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.***

***(1 Peter 1:13) Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;***

***(Romans 8:5-8) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. {6} For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. {7} Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. {8} So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.***

***(Galatians 6:7-9) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. {8} For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. {9} And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

**THERE WILL BE HINDRANCES**

***(Matthew 10:16-18) "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. {17} "But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. {18} "You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.***

***(Galatians 5:24) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires***.

**PATIENCE & ENDURANCE**

***(Hebrews 10:36) For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:***

***(James 5:7-8) Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. {8} You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

## THE RACE IS COMPLETED BY LOOKING TO JESUS

(Romans 8:37) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

***(2 Corinthians 3:4-5) And we have such trust through Christ toward God. {5} Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,***

***(2 Timothy 4:7-8) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. {8} Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.***