

#278 *Run the Race*

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Most people have the concept or mental picture that those that run the race are the most athletic or in the case of the scriptures, the most popular. You know, the TV preacher, your pastor, the church leaders, and so on. **NOT TRUE**, if you are born again, you are automatically entered into the race. It is not the fastest or most charismatic nor those that boast of winning multitudes to Christ, that can win the race. This race unlike the natural race is determined by commitment, dedication and determination and perseverance.

You can stumble and fall down, take a breather and catch your breath, **BUT the ONLY** way you will lose, is if you stay down or quit.

As long as you keep serving God you can't lose, **ALL** that **DAILY** serve Jesus, **WILL WIN**.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

If you were running in a natural race, there would be only one winner and it would be for only one prize

1Corinthians 9:24-25 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one received the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that strived for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

As long as we serve Jesus and let our light shine before mankind that the **world can SEE Jesus** working in and through you, we will win the prize. **UNFORTUNATELY** many, many people figure it is what they do that counts, like: I never miss church, I pay tithes, I teach Sunday school, I pick up so-n-so every Sunday, it is all about what I do.

Now all these things are highly commendable and should be part of every Christians life, but if you do not have the sincerity, the love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through you and don't really believe that the word of God means what it says, only what you want it to mean. Then I question your sincerity and commitment.

1Thessalonians 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

The prize we all win, **IS THE CROWN OF LIFE**, now there are more crowns we can win but this is the crown of salvation or being born again. We win eternity with Christ, all of the people are promised eternal life. And the Lord himself will wipe away all sorrow and sickness.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

BUT those that don't believe and have not excepted Jesus into their life's. Will spend eternity without Christ in the lake of fire, this means you will never forget the hurts and rejections of the world, you will remember every one and the exact words spoken to you about receiving Jesus as your saviour. You will be in constant turmoil, never any peace. **THIS IS FOR ETERNITY** not just a week or two.

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

I have been born again for over 70 years and until 1955 I was in the race, and then I sat down. It wasn't until 1970 that I got up and carried on, their have been a few times I have stumbled, but

we got up, brushed ourselves off and carried on.

Since 1970 I can understand **1Corinthians 9.26-27**

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; (*but certain and sure*) so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (*but am exact*)

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: (*Lust of the eyed, Lust of the flesh, and the pride of life*) lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

WHY you don't have more worldly people coming to Christ is because Satan has fed them a lie, that you have to give up the things you enjoy in this life. If They're talking about swearing, lying, cheating, stealing and the such, I have news for you. **YOU DON'T GIVE UP ANYTHING, IF** your sincere about asking Jesus into your heart, He will do it in such a way that you will think it's your idea.

Bro. Ken <http://burningbushcrusades.com/>