

## No Bling-Bling, But the Real Thing!

“...but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step...Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified” (vv. 25-27)



## One Foot in Front of The Other

01 Corinthians 09:24-27



### Our Purpose Remains the Same:

#### Communicate the Gospel

“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some” (01 Corinthians 09:22)

When you are discouraged remember these words:

“He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful” (01 Corinthians 01:08-09)

It Always Comes back to

Jesus!

Hebrews 04:14-16

Hebrews 12:01-03

To whom are you communicating the gospel?

Other Notes or Observations You Have:

<sup>24</sup>Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup>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.

(01 Corinthians 09:24-27, *New Living Translation*)

### A Little Background Concerning Paul & The Corinthians:

- Paul absolutely loved these people and lived among them longer than anywhere else in his travels.
- Just as he loved them greatly, he also struggled with discouragement and fear because of them.  
(refer to Acts 18:7-11)

## The Starting Line

"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!" (v. 24)

**Pretty Obvious Point:  
Everyone is in the race.**

There are no special qualifications  
to be in the race.

At this community of faith,  
we remember the phrase:  
People Matter To God!

That is our motivation behind all that we do here!

**Question to Consider:**  
Can people tell from your life that they  
Matter to God?

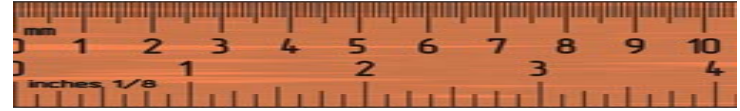
## How's Your Stride?

"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" v. 25

**These athletes were committed:**

Victory at these games meant everything to these athletes. It meant not only winning the race, but it also entailed a parade in their honor, their name placed in the record books, and perhaps, most interestingly, they would no longer have to pay taxes for the rest of their lives.

"... they regarded it so highly that those who prepared themselves for it thought it worthwhile to use means to burn their spleen, because it was believed to be a hindrance to them" (Albert Barnes)



**Just a Little Off Stride:**

The Corinthians were running the race off-stride and they were doing nothing to change.

A little off in your stride,  
makes a **HUGE** impact.

All of us have heard the biggest reason why people who don't follow Jesus don't follow Jesus:  
They don't see any difference in our lives.

**The Questions Must Be Asked:**  
Are you running off-stride?

What excuses are you making for being a little bit off stride?