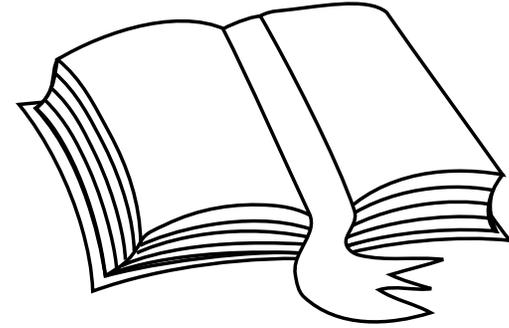


- C. What do these verses tell us we must get rid of in order to win the race? How can we do that?
- D. What three things must we do if we want to win? (verses 1-2)
- E. Why should we use Jesus as our example?



RACE TO WIN!

NOTES

SECTION I. Introduction.

Most of us have won at least a few prizes during our lives.

- A. What is the best prize that you have ever won? What did you do to get the prize?
- B. Now think about the Olympic Games.
 - 1. What kind of prizes do athletes receive in those games?
 - 2. Why do people think that the prizes are valuable?
 - 3. Do you think they really are valuable? Why or why not? In 300 years will those medals have any true value?
 - 4. What kind of training do people have to do in order to win an Olympic medal?

SECTION II. Many people work very hard to win a prize in sports, business, or literature. They can be very happy about their achievement. But those prizes and accomplishments are prizes that have meaning only in this world. Jesus invites us to think about another dimension of life, the spiritual dimension. In this passage Jesus talks about *winning the world* but losing something else.

- A. Read Mark 8:34-37. What does Jesus say we must do if we want to follow him?

- B. What does He say will happen to people who try to save their lives? What do you think He means by *save their lives*?

- C. How does He say we really can save our lives?

- D. When Jesus speaks about *winning the whole world* but *losing their lives*, what do you think He means?

SECTION III. In the verses in 1 Corinthians just before this 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul is talking about how he is living, what he is doing with his life. He speaks about telling others the Good News about Jesus' love.

- A. Read I Corinthians 9:24-27.
 - 1. Paul is comparing a race to something. What is it?

 - 2. What is the prize?

B. In what ways is our Christian life like an Olympic race? How is it different?

- 1. When does our race begin?

- 2. How many people can win?

- 3. Do we enter more than one race?

C. In our Christian lives, what do we do to win the prize?

- 1. When we run, what do we run towards?

- 2. What kind of *training* do we do? How long does it last?

- 3. What are some things that we might do as a part of our *training*?

SECTION IV. Christians are encouraged to focus on Jesus, train hard and run the race. The prize is eternal life, knowing God and living with Him forever.

- A. Read Hebrews 12:1-3.

- B. What surrounds us? How do you think this might help us?