

The Christians' Race

Introduction:

- A. Tell about the Isthmian games at Corinth.
 - B. The apostle Paul compares our lives as Christians to the contests in these games. - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 - C. The principles he teaches instruct us how to reach heaven. - 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
 - D. How can we be successful in running the Christians' race?
- I. We must strive lawfully. - 2 Timothy 2:5
- A. It is of no value to strive in the wrong place.
 - 1. The Christian's prize belongs only to those in Christ. - Ephesians 1:3,22-23; 4:4
 - 2. A good moral life outside Christ is of no avail. - Acts 10:1-2,22; 11:14
 - B. There are entrance requirements. - Romans 1:16; 10:9-10; 2:5; 6:3-4
 - C. Within the stadium there are rules which must be followed. - Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9
- II. We must run in such a way as to obtain the prize. - 1 Corinthians 9:24
- A. Be temperate in all things. - 1 Corinthians 9:25,27
 - B. Lay aside every weight. - Hebrews 12:1
 - C. Run with patience. - Hebrews 12:1
 - D. Keep the goal in sight. - 1 Corinthians 9:26; Philippians 3:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. Those who won the Isthmian games received a corruptible crown and fleeting glory.
- B. If we run the race successfully, we shall receive a glorious, incorruptible crown. - 1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- C. So run, that ye may obtain.