

**Homework Leading Into This Week: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**  
**Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

# 922church

## **Week #4: Run For The Crown**

❖ 1 Corinthians 9:24 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize. Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.

❖ Practice self discipline!

◆ 1 Corinthians 9:25a - Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.

◆ Mark 9:43-47 - If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.

❖ Remember the prize!

◆ 1 Corinthians 9:25b - They run to get a crown that will not last.

◆ 1 Corinthians 9:25c - We do it [run] for a crown that will last forever.

- ◆ 1 Peter 1:3-4 - In his great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

❖ Keep **focused!**

- ◆ 1 Corinthians 9:26a - Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly.

- ◆ 1 Corinthians 9:26b-27 - I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

### **Points to Ponder**

1. What does self-discipline look like in the Christian's life? How can we help one another maintain strict training?
2. Can you think of things in your life that have kept you from running the race in such a way as to get the prize?
3. Can you think of people from the Bible who started the race but then ended up being disqualified? What can we learn from their negative example? (See 1 Corinthians 10.)
4. How does it help us to run ...if we remember that Jesus runs with us? ...if we keep focused on the prize? ...if we remember that the prize is a free gift?

**Homework For Next Week: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27**