

Dr. Anthony Cobb (8:30 am)
Running For A Reason
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
September 4, 2016

Have you ever found yourself running because you saw someone else running? At some point you should ask yourself the question, why am I running. More specifically and in relation to the text, why am I running this race? Is it because you saw great grandmother, grandmother and your mother running that you believe that it's the right thing to do.

According to the text, there are several reasons each of us should be running the race of faith.

1. It's A Privilege To Run

The text says that everyone runs but only one person receives the prize. To compete in the Olympic games, one must be invited, making it a privilege to run and compete.

God did not have to breathe life into our bodies. We are not doing God a favor by our lives; rather God is doing us a favor by giving us life and life more abundantly. When you served the devil, you served him well, so why should serving God be any different.

The Olympic Village is the place where all athletes gather for protection from persons who are envious and those seeking to harm athletes giving their country an unfair advantage to win. The church is the place where the participants of the race of eternal life gather to be protected from those who seek to distract us from the mission and purpose that God has placed in our lives.

2. There Is An Expectation of Winning

You can't win the prize if you are only taking a jog. If you desire to be a winner, you must convince yourself that you are in the race to win. If you have no desire to compete and win, it may be because you never received an invitation to run.

3. Preparation For Running

Strict training is required if we are to win the prize for running the race. Eating McDonald's everyday and not breaking a sweat is not going to prepare you very well for competing. Going to the gym but not working out when you get there is not going to help you win the prize.

Your greatest fight is not against the devil, haters, etc. rather your greatest fight in life is with yourself. There is something about the fight we wage against ourselves. We must get our lives under subjection lest we disqualify ourselves from the very thing that we seek to attain; a crown of righteousness and to see God face-to-face. The reason so many people disqualify themselves from receiving the

prize from running the race is because we yield to ourselves instead of yielding to the Lord.

4. There Is A Prize for Winning

For those during the time of the text, the prize for winning the race was no more taxes, statues erected in their image and a crown of victory. Today, these same symbols have different meaning to us:

- No Taxes – Represent being free from penalties
- Having a Statue Erected – Means that our contribution will live beyond our lifetimes
- Receiving a Crown – Is a reminder of the crown of life placed upon our heads by Jesus Christ.