

RUNNING THE RACE
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

I WANT TO BE A LOSER!

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete... (1 Cor. 9:24)

I don't want to win the race!

I don't want to graduate from High School.

If I do manage to get to college, I want to flunk every course!

I want to be fired from my first job within six months.

I want to be divorced after 26 months of marriage.

A FORMULA FOR FAILURE

"...run aimlessly ... box as one beating the air..." (1 Corinthians 9:26)

Don't know what you want!

If you do know, don't have a clue about how to get there!

Fear failure and refuse to be flexible.

Take no risks and don't let anyone help you.

Have no priorities or if you do have priorities don't live by them!

A PICTURE OF FAILURE

"We are caught up in the fastest-paced, most rapidly changing society in the history of humankind. Our world is like an unguided missile..." (McGraw)

The divorce rate is 57.7 percent.

Sixty-two percent of our society is obese.

Emotional neglect of children has increased 330 percent.

One in four women has been sexually molested.

DO YOU WANT TO WIN?

Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win." (1 Cor. 9:24, The Message)

The Holy Grail

"People who consistently win get what they want because they know what they want." (Phillip McGraw)

Augustine suggested that to have a well ordered-heart is to love

... the right thing...to the right degree...in the right way

...with the right kind of love.

Efficiency and Effectiveness (Peter Drucker and John Maxwell)

TRAINING VS. TRYING

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training."(vs. 25, NIV)

"If you are serious about seizing the chance of a lifetime, you will have to enter a lifetime of training." (Ortberg)

The goal is to be like Christ. One indicator of spiritual growth is our ability to love God and people.

Don't be disqualified!

Prayer Concerns: Burney Biesel, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Mildred Sentell, Doris Swafford, Joe Tidwell Jr., Carol Webb, Lucille Alwerdt, Madelyn Beamon, Ray Billings, Dorothy Burns, Gene Burns, Patti Chou, Betty Crenshaw, Rachel Cobb, Ed Gatlin, Charles Hamilton, Jean Hansford, Kristi Jackson, **Jeff Joyner**, Joyce Kuhl, Gene Lee, Judy Malaquias, Margaret Moore, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Moody Palmer, **Florine Rickeman**, **Mary Elizabeth Roberts**, Marian Wiehle...

Christian Sympathy is extended to:

Floyd Speck and family in the death of his brother, *Tyrone Speck*.

Pam Phillips-Burk and family in the death of her father, *Roy Phillips*.

Mark Jamison and family in the death of his father, *Charles Jamison*.

Lyman Ingram and family in the death of his wife, *Frances Ingram*.

Karen Burns and family in the death of her grandmother, *Eva Waddell*.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, we lift up our lives to you and give you thanks for all those things which cannot be taken away from us: for rich memories of joy shared and service rendered, for jobs undertaken and done, for mountaintop moments when we have felt meaning and purpose. Thank you for all these gifts which stay with us always.

But give us the grace to hold loosely to life, to measure it not by what we have, but by who we are. Guard us from holding too closely to those things which are so easily taken from us. Train us to take each day as a separate gift, fresh and new every morning, and to celebrate that day, and fill it with our best efforts. And then, tonight, help us to be willing to wrap up the day and to turn it back to you, aware that it has had good moments in it, and bad, but confident in your grace to keep the good, and take the rest away.

May these moments we share together this morning be meaningful, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

February 19	<i>Yes and No</i>	2 Corinthians 1:18-22
February 22	<i>Renaissance Choir</i> (from Bethel College)	6:30 p.m.
February 26	<i>It's Good to Be Here</i>	Mark 9:2-9
March 1	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	6:30 p.m.

On the Radio (1450 AM):

February 19	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 1)</i>	Matthew 6:9
February 26	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 2)</i>	Matthew 6:10
March 5	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 3)</i>	Matthew 6:11-13

RENAISSANCE CHOIR

We will have a special concert on Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. *Renaissance* from Bethel College in McKenzie, TN, under the direction of Mr. Peter Jeffrey, will be with us. The group consists of 109 talented students who perform a wide range of musical styles – bluegrass to jazz, and the best loved songs of faith – traditional and contemporary.

Our Jr. High Club and High Club will not have Praise and Worship that evening. Please meet in the sanctuary for this special presentation.