

Sermon 5 1 Cor.9.24 Jan. 16. 1853 18
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1 Cor. 9. 24 P

So run that ye may obtain.

Diligence and perseverance are two peculiar characteristics of the christian religion. They are of so much importance ~~so~~ that no individual can, with propriety, claim the character of a christian, and still be indolent in spiritual or even temporal things. For inspiration enjoins that we be Not slothful in business, fervent in ~~business~~ spirit; serving the Lord. Whatsoever our hands

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findeth to do, is required to be done with all our might, yet all to the glory of God. The apostle in the text and context, most happily urges his Corinthian brethren [sic] to greater activity and perseverance in the christian race, from the well-known practice among those who were engaged in the ~~Clintian~~ ^{Ithmian} games. Those who expected to excel in those games must be temperate in all things. ^{They} ~~They~~ must be constant in the exercise, habituate themselves to the various practices, which would have a tendency

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to gain for them the desired object. Much more the Christian. If the one should make these preparations to obtain the prize [sic], which was a garland of roses, or some insignificant, perishable thing, how much more those who ran in the Christian race, whose object was to please God and obtain eternal glory, a crown of life.

practices
As the apostle brings to view certain ^ where great
extentions [sic] were made to obtain the prize [sic], and uses them to illustrate the activity or exertion which should be used to

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obtain the prize [sic] in the Christian race, let us examine.

I. The propriety and fitness of the similitude.

1. Those who run a race must strictly observe the course, and the rules

which ~~the~~ regulate ~~the~~ all the conduct of those who run.

Here the resemblance is perfect. The Christians [sic] course is a certain limited [sic] way; emphatically called the way of God's commandments. From this way we are not to turn either to the right hand or to the

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left. The rules of this race are the precepts of God's word some of which are the following.

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil. Prov. 4.25-27.

Again, See them that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise; Redeeming the time because the days are evil. Eph. 5.15

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See that ye fall not out by the way. Gen. 45.24.

2. In running a race there are temptations thrown out to impede the progress of those who run.

The golden apples.

So also in the Christian race.

Riches - - Honour - Amusement - pride of life. Lo here and lo there - -

But go ye not after them

3. In running a race they should be constantly progressing.

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So also in the Christian race.

Sorry ye not in all the plains__

‘ ‘ ‘ ‘ ‘ ‘ ‘

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; Serving the Lord. Rom.
12.11.

— — — — — — — —

Eccl. ~~Phil~~ 9.10

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.. _

— — — — — — — —

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect:

but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am

apprehended of C. Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting, those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prise [sic] of the high calling of God in C. J. Phil. 3.12-14-

— — — — — — — — —

4. None gain the prise [sic] unless they continue to the end of the race. Lo begin briskly and run well for a season, though one may have gained much of the others, should he then stop and not reach the goal, he cannot bear away the prise [sic]. The whole ground must be gone over; he must fully

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arrive to the end of the race, in order to bear away the palm.

So also in the Christian race. So thought Paul when he said,

forgetting the things which are behind, ~~I press forward~~ and

reaching forth unto those things which are before, I

press toward the mark, for the prize [sic] of the high calling of God

in Christ J.

— — — — — — — — —

He forgets what he has passed -

— — — — — — — — —

He that overcometh, will I give to eat of the tree of life, in the

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midst of the Paradise of God Rev. 2.7.

— — — — —

Be thou faithful unto death & I will give thee a crown of life.
Rev.2.10.

— — — — —

These are some of the resemblances between the race for an earthly prize [sic] here alluded to and the prize [sic] of the Christian. But in other respects they differ very widely.

And

1. In running for an earthly prize [sic], many run but one

bears away the palm.

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Know ye not that they which run in a race, run all, but one
receiveth the prise [sic]? 9.24 -

- - - - -

2. Each one when he starts to run is uncertain, though he
exert himself to the utmost.

Some one may be more successful than the other - - - - -
- - - - -

Not so in the Christian race - - - - -

Says Paul, I therefore so run, not as uncertain; so fight I, not as one
beating the air. - - - - -

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3. In other races there are jealousies.

Not so in the Christian race.

4. In other races, they strive to hinder each other.

Not so in the Christia [sic] -----

It is their delight to help each other. The strong assist the weak.

5. In other races, when one falls, the rest rejoice.

But in the Christian, they mourn.

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of darkness. . . - - - - -

3. True believers on earth.

- - - - -

4. Angels and Glorified spirits.

- - - - -

5. The eye of the Omniscient [sic] Judge is upon us.

- - - - -

A kind and sympathising [sic] friend.

6. Worth of the prize [sic].

The prize [sic] in other races _

But this a crown of life. - - - - -

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Reflections

1. We should remember that the requisitions of this race, embrace all those duties enjoined upon us by God's word. We are not to say that we have done enough untill [sic] we have accomplished all those duties which God has enjoined upon us, and after having done all, feel that we are unprofitable servants. Though we have made great advances in the Divine life, yet we have to pray, Forgive us our debts,

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for they are many, and very great in thy sight.

2. We should be led with humility to inquire why we were permitted to enter upon this glorious race; while many mistake and
act
lose the prise [sic]. Is it by reason of any work of righteousness
of our own? Had we performed any ~~work of righteous~~ pleasing in
the sight of a holy God that he should even permit us to enter upon
this glorious race to contend for the prise [sic] a crown of life?
Our lives and our consciences answer no?

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It is all of Sovereign mercy & full grace in Christ Jesus. Then let us run with patience the race set before us. Looking unto Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith; who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Then if we obtain this glorious inheritance a crown of life and be crowned as kings and priests, we cannot say that we have gotten it by our own might, but

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must ascribe our success unto him who gave his life that we
live and
might ^ reign with him. And so all the redeemed will say Worthy

is the Lamb that was slain to receive [sic] honour dominion,

and power and glory, for thou has redeemed us from among every
kingdom & tongue
nation and ~~kinde~~ and people, and hast made us kings and priests
unto God even thy Father and we shall reign with the [sic] for ever
and ever.

Amen_____

B~n. Jan.16.1853