

RUNNING THE RACE



INTRODUCTION

The following Scripture explains how the Lord inspired Timothy II to write this Tract. As you read this Tract, I pray that you do it with the Spirit of Understanding, and let the **vision** clearly help you to begin to **Run the Race for God** in your Christian life.

Hab 2:2

2 **And the LORD** answered me, and said, **Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.**

The **Race we Run** is not like those that are **Run** in the world. The **Race we Run** is not in competition with others nor is it to achieve the fastest time possible. Instead it is to **Run the Race** that **God** has set before us in the best possible manner we are capable of with the talents that he has given us. (Matthew 25:14-30) The word for **Race** in the Greek is 'stadion', which means a **Race-Course** of a certain measure of distance. The **Race-Course** that **we Run** however, varies in distance for each of us according to **God's plan**.

HOW TO START RUNNING THE RACE

We begin to start **Running the Race** for **God** by following **the Way** (which is a course of life) of **Truth** and **the Way** (a course of life) of **God's Statutes and Commandments**.

Ps 119:30-33

30 **I have chosen the way** (course of life) of **truth**: thy judgments have I laid before me.

31 I have **stuck** (pursued hard) unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.

33 Teach me, O LORD, **the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.**

Many Marathon runners actually get an enlarged heart from the tremendous volume of blood it takes to **Run** long distances. We too need an enlarged heart to **Run the Race**.

32 **I will run the way** (course of life) of **thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.**

RUNNING TO WIN

Once we begin to **Run the Race** we need to **Run to Win**. In the world only **one Runner Wins** the **prize** yet they **Run to Win**. As Christians we **all Win** the **prize** so **Run to Win!**

1 Cor 9:24

24 **Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**

TRAINING TO WIN

As Christians, we know that we must **Train** and condition ourselves just like the **Runners** in the world in order to **Win the Race of Life**. The Bible states that bodily exercise profits for a while (1 Timothy 4:8), but our strength is not in our bodies but in our **Spirit**. We therefore need to **Train** to become **Spiritually** strong in order to **Win the Race**.

1 Cor 9:25-27

25 **And every man that striveth for the mastery** (competes for a prize) **is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**

26 **I therefore so run, not as uncertainly;** so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 **But I keep under** (subdue) **my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway** (rejected).

DO NOT LET OTHERS HINDER YOU

There are always some (including Satan) that will try to **hinder you** from **Running the Race**, but remember this **hindrance** does **not** come from **God**. (Luke 11:52 1 Thess 2:18)

Gal 5:7-8

7 **Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?**

8 **This persuasion** (belief) **cometh not of him** (God) **that calleth you.**

RUNNING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

We will **Run** in the **wrong direction** if we allow others to cause us to **Run to Evil**.

Prov 1:10

10 **My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.**

Prov 1:16

16 **For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.**

Isa 59:7

7 **Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity** (wickedness); **wasting and destruction are in their paths.**

1 Pet 4:4

4 **Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot** (unsaved ness), **speaking evil of you:**

Prov 6:16-18

16 **These six things doth the LORD hate:** yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, **feet that be swift in running to mischief,**

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

You have probably heard the saying "When the going gets tough - the tough get going". When we begin to falter in **Running the Race** and things get tough, think upon those that have **Run the Race** before us who through **Faith** have:

Heb 11:34-40

34 **Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.**

35 **Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:**

36 **And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:**

37 **They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;**

- 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.
39 **And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise** (of the Gospel):
40 **God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect** (complete).
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DO NOT RUN IN VAIN

Even in Ministry, we need to **Run** by the **revelation of God** so as not to **Run in Vain**.

Gal 2:2 (Paul stated)

2 **And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.**

Gal 1:11-12

11 But I certify you brethren, that the **gospel** which was preached of me is not after man.

12 **For I neither received it of (from) man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Phil 2:16

16 **Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.**

THE GOOD NEWS

Whether we are strong or weak physically or Spiritually, **the Lord is our strength**, and to those that are the weakest **He increases our strength**.

Isa 40:29, 31

29 **He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.**

31 **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

2 Sam 22:30 Psalm 18:29

30 **For by thee (the Lord) I have run through a troop (an Army): by my God have I leaped over a wall.**

Ps 18:32

32 **It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way (course of life) perfect (complete).**

Prov 18:10

10 **The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.**

CONCLUSION

The **Race we Run** is not a sprint, but is a long distance **Race** (a Marathon); therefore, we do not need to **Run the Race** swiftly, but we need to **Run it with patience**.

Ecc 9:11

11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that **the race is not to the swift**, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; **but time and chance (occurrences) happeneth to them all.**

Heb 12:1-3

1 **Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us**,

2 **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.**

3 **For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**

THE FINISH LINE

When we **Run the Race Faithfully** and have crossed **the finish line**, we will receive a **crown of righteousness** and hear **Jesus say**:
“Well Done thou Good and Faithful Servant”

2 Tim 4:7-8 (Paul stated)

7 I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course (Race)**, **I have kept the faith**:

8 **Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day**: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (1 Peter 5:4)

Matt 25:21 Matt 25:23

21 **His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

AMEN!

TIMOTHY II