

“WINNING THE PRIZE AS A CHRISTIAN ATHLETE” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

- I. WHAT IS THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?
- II. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION & REWARDS?
- III. WHAT ARE GOD’S PURPOSES FOR THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?
- IV. WHAT ARE GOD’S CRITERIA FOR GRANTING REWARDS?
- V. WHAT REWARDS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT?
- VI. WILL THE JUDGMENT SEAT INVOLVE COMMENDATION OR CONDEMNATION?
- VII. HOW DO THE ATHLETIC ANALOGIES RELATE TO REWARDS?

A. The Historical Background to the Athletic Analogies

1. The New Testament contains many references to athletic events, including _____
a _____ (Acts 13:25; 20:24; Rom. 9:16; 1 Cor. 9:24; Gal. 2:2; 5:7; Phil. 2:16; 2 Thess. 3:1; 2 Tim. 4:7; Heb. 12:1), _____ (1 Cor. 9:26), and _____ (Eph. 6:12).

2. The New Testament writers were drawing comparisons to the _____
games which were held every four years and the lesser crown-games, such as the Isthmian
games, every two years.

** Would the Corinthian Christians have easily understood these athletic metaphors?*

** Is athletic competition inherently wrong?*

B. The Requirements to Win the Prize as a Christian (1 Cor. 9:24-25a)

1. Every believer is to recognize that he/she is in a _____.

2. The Lord wants us to run in a _____ in our Christian in order to win.

** Who is observing your running right now?*

** What criteria will the Judge consider in that Day?*

C. The Prize to Be Won in the Christian Life (1 Cor. 9:24-25)

1. The winner of an athletic competition would receive a _____ (*brebaion*, v24; Phil. 3:14) that included a _____ (*stephanos*, v25).

** What other crowns are mentioned in the New Testament?*

2. If you run to win in the Christian life, you will receive an _____ reward.

** Does the way you live your life now really matter?*

D. Competing with Purpose in Your Christian Life (1 Cor. 9:26)

1. As a Christian athlete, God wants you to be _____ competing.

** What should be the purpose of your entire Christian life?*

2. The Lord also wants you to be _____ as an athlete. (Phil. 3:10-14)

E. Avoiding the Possibility of Disqualification in the Christian Life (1 Cor. 9:27)

1. Some hold that this passage is teaching _____ of salvation (Arminian view), while others believe it is teaching the _____ of saving faith by perseverance to the end of one's life in faith and good works (Calvinist view).

** What is the context dealing with?*

2. To be disqualified means to forfeit the possibility of gaining a _____ or _____ . (Matt. 16:24-27; Heb. 10:35; James 1:12; Rev. 2:8-10)