

DON'T STOP NOW.

8/24/2025 AM

INTRO:

A. Read the TEXT: 1 Corinthians 9:24.

1. One lesson of life instilled within me by my parents was “Always finish what you start.”
2. And it is good to have that mentality. In all phases of life. Especially in our Christianity!

B. In this verse Paul compares the Christian life with that of a foot race.

1. In our race towards eternal life, there is only one way to complete it.
2. Three stages in our spiritual journey (Train; Apply; and Finish).

I. TRAIN... SET OUR SIGHTS ON THE GOAL.

A. A team does not go into a season with the goal to be losers.

B. A marathon runner prepares physically and mentally.

C. We must prepare for the race in life.

1. We must labor in order to be pleasing to God (**Heb. 4:10-11**).
2. **Matt. 6:33** – lists the goal and reward.
3. Preparation involves a “living sacrifice” (**Romans 12:1-2**).
4. Prepared to teach and defend the gospel (**2 Timothy 2:2; Philippians 1:17**).

II. APPLY... RUN THE RACE.

A. NOTE: Hebrews 12:1 “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.”

1. “Lay aside” = To remove or cast away.
2. “Every weight” Do not be burdened with the things of the world.
 - 1) Remove the burden (**Ephesians 4:22**).
 - 2) You cannot run when weighted down!
3. “Sin that doth so easily beset us” Greek, “sin which easily stands around us.”
 - 1) Strong’s #2139 “OUR COMPETITOR”! Anything that can defeat us!
 - 2) **1 Peter 5:8**.

B. Also, we must note...in this race we help others cross the finish line.

1. Teach those who have not obeyed (**Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**).
2. Encourage the erring to repent (**Galatians 6:1-2**).

III. FINISH... THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY.

A. God’s way! (Everyone is running to eternity.)

B. Remember our goal is heaven (1 Corinthians 9:24; Romans 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**).**

C. Who would want to lose this race?

1. Losers in this race will receive spiritual death (**Revelation 20:10**).
2. Heaven will surely be worth it all (**Revelation 21:4**)!

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. One more thing we must observe:

1. To win this race...I MUST ENTER the race!
 - 1) This requires obedience to the Lord (**Heb. 5:9**).
 - 2) H/B/R/C/B.
2. THEN we must finish the race!

B. How will you finish?

1. Life is a race that everyone must run.
2. There is a finish line – only one of two options when we get there.

C. Are you where you need to be to win this race? Are you ready to face the Lord?