

The Christian Race **9-21-14 AM**

The Bible commonly uses three analogies to describe the Christian life: The Farmer/Shepherd, the Soldier, and the Athlete. Specifically, Scriptures often use the runner as a metaphor for the Christian life. Let us look at the passages that define the Christian life as a race, specifically examining their particular emphasis

1. **II Timothy 2:5** – Here the emphasis are the rules of the race. No runner can run contrary to the rules and expect to receive a crown. Paul himself was concerned about running in vain, contrary to the rules, in Galatians 2:2 & 5:7.

2. **I Corinthians 9:24-27** – The main point of this passage is to make sure the need of training and self control. Since we are running to receive a prize, we need to exercise self-control in all things, disciplining the body for our victory. We need to also remember that this is a team sport; group training is necessary.

3. **Hebrews 12:1-13** – The Hebrew writer points out the type of race that the Christian race is: an endurance race. As such we need to fixate on the goal and the lead runner who sets the pace. In this case our lead runner who sets the pace, blazes the trail, and shows us the path is Jesus. We need to be prepared for the hurdles and obstacles that can trip us.

4. **Ephesians 6:15** – Here the analogy is that of the soldier, but the purpose of shoes on a soldier are maneuvering. We can say that they are running shoes. We need to "put on" the Gospel by being intimately acquainted with it. We need to be running in the right clothes; if we are not in Christ, we run in vain (Revelation 16:15)

5. **Philippians 2:16, 3:14** – We need to run with confidence. Both of our ability to finish the race, and our reward when it is completed.

Having examined the Christian Race in Scriptures, we see now what the Christian race is NOT:

- A Sprint - it is an endurance run
- A Competition – it is a team run
- Freelance – it has set rules
- Without rewards – it has many