

Lesson Notes:

## **How to Finish the Race**

The Corinthians loved the Olympic games almost, as much as Americans love sports. Paul used the analogy of running a race to impress upon the Corinthians how you should run life's race in service to Jesus Christ.

### **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **Run the race to receive the prize.** – Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 9:24** that we need to run the race in an effort to win the prize. In other words just don't flounder along in life. Find God' purpose in your Life and run to win.
- 2) **We must be willing to “Fight the Good Fight”.** – Paul encourages Timothy in **1 Timothy 6:12** and **2 Timothy 4:7** to fight on and to fight the good fight. Paul likens Timothy's service to the Lord as an intense struggle since Timothy's struggle will not be against flesh and blood but against powers in high places. (Ephesians 6:12).
- 3) **We must be willing to endure hardship.** – Paul tells Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:1-3** and **2 Timothy 3:12** to be prepared to suffer persecution.
- 4) **We must pursue Righteousness**– Paul tells Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:21-23** that he must be prepared to flee youthful lust and pursue faith, love and righteousness.
- 5) **We need to recognize that we live in perilous times.** – **2 Timothy 3:1-5** tells us that men will be lovers of themselves during the end times but we must pursue righteousness.
- 6) **We must seek to fulfill our purpose.** – **2 Timothy 4:5-8** tells to fulfill the purpose that God has before us.
- 7) **We must place our trust in Christ as we run our Race** – **2 Timothy 4:17-18** promises us that God will deliver us from every evil. **Romans 8:31** tells us that if God is for us who can be against us.
- 8) **We must never lose hope.** – **John 3:16-17** tells us that whoever calls upon the Lord shall not perish but will have everlasting life.