

*WHAT THE  
KINGDOM  
ISN'T*



*IT'S NOT FOR  
SPECTATORS*

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 – WEEK 1 OF 8

*WHAT THE  
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ISN'T*



**RACES ARE CHALLENGING & COMPETITIVE**

## 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.



## ISAIAH 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the  
Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary, and his  
understanding no one can fathom.  
He gives strength to the weary and  
increases the power of the weak.

## ISAIAH 40:28-31

Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the Lord will renew  
their strength. They will soar on wings like  
eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

## HEBREWS 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.



## HEBREWS 12:1-3

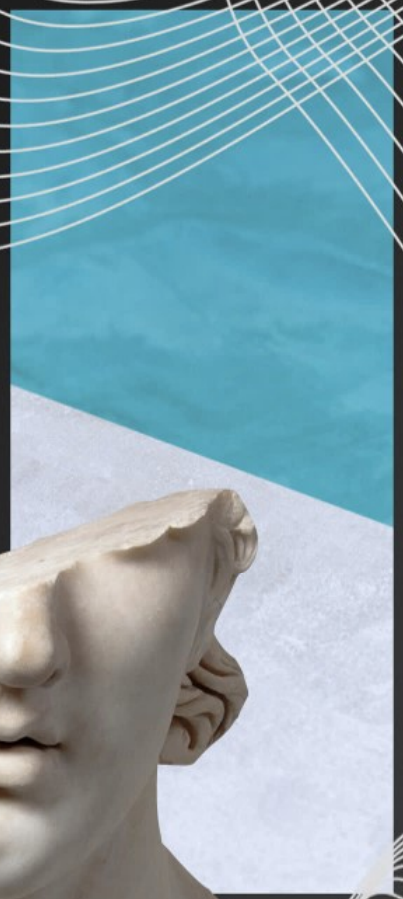
For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

# RACES ARE CHALLENGING & COMPETITIVE

- Being a spectator gives you elation without the effort.
- Though we were born to run we are often content to watch.
- Don't skip out on what is difficult & meaningful in favor of what is easy & useless.

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**RACES HAVE A START AND A FINISH**



## PROVERBS 29:18 (TLB)

Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep his laws.



# PSALM 119:32

I run in the path of your commands, for  
you have broadened my understanding.



## GALATIANS 5:7

You were running a good race.  
Who cut in on you to keep you from  
obeying the truth?

## MATTHEW 7:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”



## 2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

# RACES HAVE A **START** AND A **FINISH**

- Being a spectator lets you join in or leave whenever you feel like it.
- When we do decide to run it's often after the wrong things.
- Don't get pulled off course in pursuit of destructive shortcuts.

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**RACES HAVE RULES & REWARDS**

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:5

Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

## PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.



## PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

# 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.



# 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

# RACES HAVE RULES & REWARDS

- Being a spectator leaves you untested, underdeveloped, and ultimately unchanged.
- Running well inspires others and glorifies God.
- Don't give up, get stuck, or burn out. Keep running towards Jesus until He's holding you.

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