

Runners & the Race

by Dan Jenkins

It was 490 years before Christ when the Greeks began to overthrow the oppression they suffered from Persia. In a major decisive battle, the Greeks defeated the Persians and one of the victorious soldiers, Pheidippides, ran more than 20 miles from the battle site to Athens. Arriving in the city, he proclaimed, "We have won!" and then fell dead. You may have heard of this battle, for it was fought at Marathon, and this event gave rise to the modern marathons.

Running was part of the lives of those in the first century as it is today. Last year, there were over 1,100 marathons run in the U.S. involving more than 500,000 runners. Consider the spiritual lessons the Holy Spirit draws from this ancient and modern practice of running and the parallels between participation in races and our involvement in the Christian race.

Runners must give their all in order to be successful. In 1 Corinthians chapter 9, Paul talks about how so many begin the race but only the most dedicated ones win it. He then said, "Run so that you may obtain it." There is the prize awaiting the Christian, but to obtain it he must give all that he has and finish the race.

Runners must run lawfully. In every race, there are rules, and they must be followed. The course is

specified and only those who follow the rules have any chance of winning. Paul said, "If anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules" (2 Tim. 2:5). God has given us a race to run, but he has established the rules and we must comply with them.

Runners must not carry unnecessary "baggage." Those ancient runners trained by wearing weights attached to the legs and ankles. On the day of the race, they removed the weights and their legs seemed extra strong when the race began. The writer of Hebrews applies that to Christians in our race. "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us" (Heb. 12:1). One cannot hold on to Jesus when his hands already grasp worldly things.

Runners need to model themselves after others who have shown their abilities. This is why God describes our race before many witnesses and then adds, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). We have a perfect model who has already finished the race. He has shown us how to do it. Our responsibility is to keep our focus on Him. It is as simple as looking at how He did it, then making sure we follow His example every day.

So, let's run the race knowing that the perfect example has shown us how. Let's finish the race, and as we die, proclaim, "We have won!"

THE POWER OF
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how can a single event
change eternity?

October 11-14

Sunday through Wednesday beginning at 6 pm

with Clint Brown, Rick Brumback, BJ Clarke
Steve Higginbotham, Wayne Jones,
David Shannon, and Michael Whitworth

westhillchurchofchrist.org

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Mission Works

Westhill Works
Benevolence Program

Local Works
Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works
La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

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Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
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Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Jan Ross had an outpatient leg surgery Friday at Navarro Regional hospital.

Robby Thomas suffered a mini stroke and is in room 501 at Scott & White Baylor in Waxahachie.

Faye Hand, Brian Hand's mother, is in room 113 at Heritage Oaks Retirement Village for rehab.

Heather Lamb, Myrna Haufe's granddaughter, has been diagnosed with M.S. She is in Parkland on the 16th floor, room 430.

Carl Garner is now in the Hill Country Care nursing home in Dripping Springs, room 107.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Julie Dilbeck, Buster Hayes, Wanda Horner, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Eula Parrish, Willie Winters, Kelly Bland, Frankie Ellison, Meagan Gould, Paul Hillier, Louise Tallent, Ronald Tucker.

College Students: Savanna Bearden, Jason Dilbeck, Ty Gibson, Kate Haden, Kati Haffner, Wade Hall, Julie Hand, Jackie Howard, Kayla Howard, Jamie Humann, Corey McDougald, Emory McDougald, Kaylee Nicholson, Steely Southard, Emily Stovall, and Corey Tackett.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

Announcements

Sandwich Supper after services tonight. Please, bring sandwiches, chips, dips and desserts and plan to stay for food and fellowship together.

Lads to Leaders Meeting this evening in conjunction with our sandwich supper. Spencer Ross will be here to answer questions.

Making the Most of Monday youth service project and door knocking tomorrow evening. We will leave the building at 5:30 and return at 7:30 PM.

Middle School Open Door Thursday at the Myers' home, 3:30 to 6:30 PM.

Kids for Christ Devo, Sunday, Oct. 4, 12:30 to 2:00 at Brent & Lanette Stewart's house. Boys bring chips, girls bring cookies.

Our Lectureship, "The Power of One," is coming up October 11-14. Invitation cards are available at the back of the auditorium.

We Need Volunteers to house speakers during our lectureship. If you would be willing to host a speaker in your home, please see Brent Stewart, Greg Olsen or Rusty Owens.

If You'd Like to Volunteer with Navarro Elementary, the forms are due today. See Debbie Wylie and Carolyn Milton for more information.

Fall Youth Retreat at Peach Valley is coming up October 16-18. Registration forms are available on the back table. See Cory for more details.

Save the Date: Seniors (50+) Seminar with Jeff Jenkins, Monday, November 9th at 7:00 PM.

Birthdays This Week

September 27 - Grayson Baumgartner,
Dianne Compton

September 29 - Cecil Ellis

October 3 - Paula Gillen

Next Week's Adult Class

Face to Face with Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

Records for September 20, 2015

Bible Class	175
AM Worship.....	248
PM Worship	143
Wednesday	n/a
Contribution	\$6,526.96

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader Tyler Baumgartner

Opening Prayer Brent Stewart

Communion Leader Nick Hoffman

Communion Servers

David Baumgartner Tyler Baumgartner

Joe Glass Ken Green

Wade Hall Jimmy Horn

Don Ivy Larry Jayroe

Aubrey Parrish Wayne Prater

Austin Roughton Gene Steinkraus

Mike Wylie

Closing Prayer Carter Bearden

Nursery Emily Roughton & Dianne Stewart

PM Song Leader Brody Owens

PM Opening Prayer Jim Haden

PM Closing Prayer David Shastid

Wed. Song Leader Jimmy Horn

Wed. Devotional Greg Olsen

Sept. Contact Elder Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176