

WHEN WINNING COUNTS

PASTOR'S BIBLE HOUR – June 24, 2007

TABERNACLE OF PRAISE – PASTOR G. RICHARDSON

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1. **Vince Lombardi** Coach of the Green Bay Packers, told his players; “Winning isn’t everything, it is the only thing.”

Phi 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Phi 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Phi 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Phi 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Phi 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Phi 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung,

that I may win Christ,

Phi 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Phi 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Phi 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Phi 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Phi 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Phi 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

PAUL LIKENED THE CHRISTIAN WALK TO RACE

1. There is never a time to relax and do nothing, but it is always pressing forward from victory to victory.

1Co 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race **run all**, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to **obtain a corruptible crown**; but **we an incorruptible**.

1Co 9:26 **I therefore so run**, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

PAUL LIKENED THE CHRISTIAN WALK TO A FIGHT

1Ti 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life**, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1. **Lay hold on eternal life** - As the crown of victory that is held out to you. Seize this as eagerly as the competitors at the Grecian games laid hold on the prize; see the notes on [1Co 9:25](#).

1Ti 6:13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and *before* Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

1Ti 6:14 That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1Ti 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1. **I have finished my course:** Everybody's course is different. Your course is not my course; my course is not your course. We are not in competition with anybody but ourselves that we may finish "**My Course.**"

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Heb 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,

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Heb 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

1. **with so great a cloud of witnesses;** or "martyrs" or "Examples or the Heroes of Faith" of Old Testament saints, the instances of whose faith and patience are produced in the preceding chapter (Hebrews 11): these, some of them, were martyrs in the sense in which that word is commonly used; they suffered in the cause, and for the sake of TRUTH they all bore a noble testimony of God.
2. **Heaven is Cheap at Any Price:** It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!

"SO RUN, THAT YE MAY OBTAIN"

1. **Lay Aside:** Heb 12:1 “...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”
2. **Lay aside** things that would trip you up and disqualify you from eternal life, or cause you to become lukewarm in the race.
3. **Put OFF:** Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
 Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
 Col 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.
 Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
 Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

upon the earth — where they find their support [Bengel] (Compare Col 3:2, “things on earth”). See Eph 5:3, Eph 5:4.

inordinate affection — “lustful passion.”

evil concupiscence — more general than the last [Alford], the disorder of the *external* senses; “lustful passion,” *lust within* [Bengel].

4. **Put ON:**

Col 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

Col 3:14 And above all these things **put on** charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

IF YE DO THESE THINGS YOU SHALL NEVER FALL

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2Pe 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2Pe 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

IF WE WIN LIFE'S RACE, WE CAN SAY AS PAUL SAID

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.