

SO RUN, THAT YE MAY OBTAIN  
I COR. 9:24-27

Introduction:

A. These statements will be clearer to us for two reasons.

1. The current interest in running.
2. 1984 Olympic games in Los Angeles.
3. Ithmian games, every 3 years at Corinth.

B. This does not present the plan of salvation.

1. God puts you on the track.
2. You out run the devil.

C. This is an exhortation to effort and excellence.

1. The winner entered the race, and won.
2. Everyone should strive as the winner did.

I. ALL ARE RUNNERS IN THE RACE. V24

A. We are all entered in the race.

1. Not a matter of individual choice.
2. Here we can stay at home, not so in the Christian race.
  - a. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all."

B. The prize is to the winner.

1. "but one receiveth the prize."
2. prize = a wreath, chaplet, or garland.

C. If you don't run, you can't win.

1. "so run, that ye may win."
2. If a person never enters the Boston Marathon, that person will never win it!

II. THOSE WHO WIN ARE THOUGH. V25a



- A. "and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things."
1. striveth = agonizomai - to be a competitor in a contest, hence to try, to train.
  2. Those who seek to win make an effort.
- B. "is temperate in all things."
1. He is temperate in his habits.
  2. He trains. Heb. 12:1.

### III. THE PRIZE. V25b

- A. "now they to obtain a corruptible crown."
1. corruptible = phthartos - perishable.
  2. This was a wreath of leaves.
- B. "but we an incorruptible."
1. Never will perish.

### IV. PAUL'S PROGRAM. V26

- A. He ran certainly "not as uncertainly"
1. certainly = with resolution.
  2. He had a purpose and an aim.
- B. He fought purposefully, v26b.
1. "so fight I, not as one that beateth the air."
    - a. fight = mukteuo - to fight as a boxer.
    - b. beateth = jdero - to energetically beat.
    - c. air = haer - the air.

### V. PAUL IDENTIFIED HIS GREATEST HINDRANCE. V27

- A. Paul's body was the source of defeat.
1. "But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection."
    - a. subjection = doulagogeo - to lead as a slave, to make a slave of.
    - b. "I control my flesh, it does not control me."

- B. He had to become his bodys master.
  - 1. This is fighting the will of the flesh.
  - 2. Not a once-and-for all victory!

#### VI. PAUL'S GREATEST FEAR.

- A. "lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
  - 1. preached = keruksas - a herald, one who announced at the games, calling the contestants to the line, and giving out the rules. (This is a possibility.)
  - 2. castaway = adokimos - that which will not stand the test or proof, generally used to speak of metals.
    - a. The inspection of metal castings and finding one that is flawed.
- B. After Paul had preached to others he did not want to become a victim of his own flesh and be flawed and useless.