

Sermon Notes

Power of the Word Part 7

March 4th – 5th, 2023

- **Week 7: Run To Win the Prize!**
 - One of my favorite sections of Scripture is **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**. (emphasis v24)
 - Let's apply **John 8:31-32** to **1 Cor 9:24!!**
- What is the prize?? A good answer to this question is found in **Philippians 3:10-11**.
- The problem is that we are losing.
 - Stats show a huge drop in American Christianity. Let's not pretend it isn't true.
- Why are we losing? Simple, the branches are not bearing fruit. **John 15:1-4, 8**.
 - Don't blame culture. No version of "greater is he that is in the world than He that is in me" will fly.
 - Don't skirt responsibility. No version of "my labor in the Lord is in vain" will fly either.
 - However, the reality is that you can't do other people's jobs for them. Don't carry too much.
 - One Body, Many Parts. We win or lose as a team.
 - What's the answer?? The branches need to bear fruit!
 - That means, regular everyday Christians need to, en masse, run to win the prize.
- What does it mean for you to run in such a way as to get the prize?
 - You probably know part of the answer already: face those inner demons, actually apologize, step up to the plate and serve, get emotionally and relationally healthy, take that faith leap, etc...
 - Let's look in the Scriptures to flesh this out a little more.
- **2 Timothy 2:5**
 - Paul gives Timothy a list of riddles to figure out that will help him make the most of his life and ministry. **2 Timothy 2:4-7**
 - V4) Stay on task. Don't get distracted off of what's most important.
 - V5) Be true to the ways of God.
 - V6) It's ok to let provision flow to you.
 - So, **2 Timothy 2:5**. Run to win the prize...according to the rules.
 - A late hit out of bounds doesn't just penalize you, but it hurts the whole team.
 - So, deal with that garbage. Get some help. We need you strong.
 - Pride has to go.
 - Be about Jesus. Win people with the Gospel and the example of someone living it out.
 - Basically, it's **Matthew 6:33**.
- We're getting into the home stretch!!
 - The prize is **Phil 3:10-11**, so let's look at **Philippians 3:12-14**. Let go of the past...
 - Here we are. It is what it is. However, go ahead and learn from the past. Why waste the pain??
- How do we strain ahead to win the prize?? Two things...
 - 1) Together. It actually takes all of us. This is a team game.
 - I can't do your part and you can't do mine. We need each other. All of us.
 - We win when each and every normal everyday Christian runs to win the prize.
 - 2) Individually. What does it mean for you to run in such a way as to win the prize?
 - Who did God make you to be? A business owner? Mom? Friend? Prayer Warrior? Recovered? Free? Redeemed? A connect group participant? Pastor? What???
 - Don't be afraid to run your particular race. Joyfully embrace that!
- Winning is fun, even if there are big challenges! Run in such a way as to win the prize!
 - Holy Communion is today. Brings me back to the "fellowship in His suffering" from **Phil 3:10-11**.
 - Why did Jesus die for you? Because He saw value in you worth suffering for.
 - Why would you fellowship in His suffering? You now see value in others too.
 - Let's ask as we receive, "why would you do this for me??" Then just let it flow from there.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.