

RUNNING THE RACE FOR THE PRIZE (Discipleship and Reward)



THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SEEN AS A RACE	DISCIPLESHIP HELPS FOR THE RACE	THE PRIZE
<p>The Christian life begins with the new birth. At that point we are fully justified before God (Rom. 4:1-5; 5:1). After that, we start to live the Christian life, which is sometimes pictured as a race which we run. This race, our daily living, is where discipleship happens. Discipleship involves the process of life-long sanctification. Being a disciple means being a learner, a follower, of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Run the race set before us. Heb. 12:1-2 ● Run in a way that you may win an incorruptible crown. 1 Cor. 9:24-27 ● Press on towards the goal for the prize. Phil. 3:13-14 ● Finish the race course well and gain the crown of righteousness. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Running with endurance, looking to Jesus; Heb. 12:1-2. Endurance involves doing the will of God, even under difficult circumstances. Heb. 10:36 ● Willingness to deny ourselves in order to follow Christ in obedience. Lk. 14:26-33 ● Abiding in God's Word: listening to it, treasuring it and obeying it. Jn. 8:31-32; Lk. 6:46-49; 8:15; 10:38-42 ● Praying. Matt. 26:41; Lk. 18:1; 21:36; 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18 ● Taking heed to the conscience and confessing sins. Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 13:18; Prov. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:9 ● Seeking God and His righteousness, the coming kingdom and the things above. Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 11:6 ● Living by the Spirit through faith, not by law and self-effort. Gal. 2:19-20; Rom. 8:2-5 ● Looking for and preparing for Christ's coming. Matt. 25:1-30; Lk. 12:35-48; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; Phil. 3:8-14; Heb. 9:28; 2 Tim. 4:7-8 	<p>The prize is reward, not eternal salvation. Eternal salvation is a free gift, apart from works, whereas reward (recompense) is "according to works" (Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12). Rewards for the believer are decided at the Judgment Seat of Christ and the recompense can be positive or negative (2 Cor. 5:10; Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:23-25). The great positive reward (the prize) is ruling with Christ in His 1,000 year reign, and enjoying a special portion of eternal life in that age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ruling with Christ in His future reign is dependent upon our endurance in following Christ in this life – Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12 ● Crowns, signifying rulership with Christ, are available for the faithful believer. 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:2-4 ● "Eternal life" in the age to come is a magnified enjoyment of fellowship with Christ in the 1,000 year kingdom, and is awarded for following Christ – Mk. 10:28-30