

Run With Purpose 1 Co 9:24–27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. ESV

Observations:

Paul frequently uses athletic metaphors to describe the _____ and _____ required for the advancement of the gospel.

Like an athlete, Paul has a single-minded goal: to bring as many _____ as possible, from whatever station in life, to _____ in _____.

Paul's motivation and purpose is driven by one vision and one love—that he may _____ his _____ in the gospel story.

He continues the athletic metaphor by reminding his readers that fighters must discipline their bodies if they expect to win. In the same way, Christ-followers must be willing to set aside their _____ for the sake of what is strategic or primary.

Application:

1. The purpose of our church is to _____ & _____ people for Christ.
2. When we are strategic about it, we correct _____.
3. _____ plus _____ help provide a strong vision for everyone.
 - We know what we _____ to _____.
 - We prioritize what's _____.
 - We discover how we can be _____.
4. Our Four Areas of Strategic Focus
 - Being a _____.
 - Improving Our _____.
 - Serving our _____.
 - Developing _____.
5. Churches that are inwardly focused quickly suffer from _____ and _____. What unites a church completely is the calling out of all its forces for accomplishing the _____.

If you'd like to get back in the race spiritually, text "Connect" to 615-640-3712 or email me at Frank.Lewis@Nashvillefirst.org