

AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS

A Study of First Corinthians

MOVE OVER CHARLIE SHEEN

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Jeff Schreve

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

1 Corinthians 9:24

What does it take to live a “winning” Christian life?

1. It takes discipline.

And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 1 Corinthians 9:25

A. You have to have mental discipline.

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

B. You have to have physical discipline.

... but I buffet my body and make it my slave. 1 Corinthians 9:27

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable.

All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. 1 Corinthians 6:12

2. It takes focus.

Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air. 1 Corinthians 9:26

A. You don't get points just because of effort.

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. Romans 10:2-3

B. You get points when you do right from a right heart.

3. It takes perseverance.

... but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27

A. The victorious Christian life is not easy.

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

Acts 9:15-16

B. The victorious Christian life is well worth it.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Do you want to start winning?