



I. INTRO/REVIEW

A. Hurry up and do life faster!

Question – In all of our busyness and all of our hurrying up where are we going?

B. What if in all of our hurrying we got to the end and realized we were in a hurry to get to the wrong place?

Philippians 3:14-15 (NKJV) Brethren I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

C. Consistently hitting the mark will bring you to the prize

II. RUN TO WIN

A. In this race – it takes more than running faster than anyone else

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (CEV) ²⁴You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! ²⁵Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever. ²⁶I don't run without a goal. And I don't box by beating my fists in the air. ²⁷I keep my body under control and make it my slave, so I won't lose out after telling the good news to others.

B. Learning to say no to you

Why should I say no to me?

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- o The Bema seat is a place where rewards will be given or lost depending on how one has used his or her life for the Lord.
- o Salvation is a gift but there are rewards given for faithfulness in the Christian life and loss of rewards for unfaithfulness.

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV) ¹²“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

C. This is the eternal perspective and why we discipline today

- o Because one day we're going to stand before Him
- o We live in the here and now but we have to keep an eye on things above



III. HITTING THE MARK TO WIN THE PRIZE

A. Immaturity in Christians

- o I can be a Christian and not be involved – you can, even go to heaven, but it's incredibly short sighted and selfish. It totally flies in the face of what Christianity truly is

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NKJV) ¹⁹For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are under the law*; ²¹to those *who are without law*, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are without law*; ²²to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

Question – I could have – but I chose not to.

I'm running like crazy but is there anything eternal at the end of this track?
What if I finish on this track?

Matthew 25:23 (NKJV) His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.'

Good AND faithful – God has made us good – we choose to be faithful!