

July 18, 2021
Ephesians 6:21-24

FINISHING WELL

I. Wrapping Up Our Study In Ephesians

A. **Lessons From Ephesians:** How God Has So Richly Blessed Us: Ephesians 1

- We were chosen by him to become holy and blameless in his sight. (vs. 4)
 - We were adopted as sons and daughters through his son Jesus Christ (vs. 5)
 - We received redemption and forgiveness through the blood of Christ. (vs. 7)
 - He made known to us the mystery of His wisdom and understanding. (vs. 8)
 - We were chosen to be living examples that would bring praise and glory to Him. (vs. 11)
 - We were included in Christ when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation. (vs. 13)
 - We were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, That's come into our lives. (vs. 13-14)
-
- Before we came to Christ we were alienated from God. We as Gentiles were without a Savior, without a home, without a future, without a hope, and if we were without all of these things it could only mean one thing that we were without God.

 - Jesus came and broke down the dividing line between the Jews and Gentiles so that we could be part of God's family, God's Household. By Jesus life and death, we were adopted into God's family and we have a right to all of the spiritual blessings that I just mentioned.

 - Because of Christ we were led out of darkness into God's radiant light and that we are called to live a children of light.

 - We have an enemy in Satan who is seeking to do everything he can to deceive us and keep us from following Christ and therefore we must put on the full armor of God so that we can withstand the attacks of Satan.

II. The Olympics And The Christian Life

The Olympic Creed states that the emphasis is not to be placed on winning but on participation. *“The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, **but to have fought well.**”*

III. The Apostle Paul: A man who fought and finished well

“6] For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. [7] **I have fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”
2 Timothy 4:6-8

IV. Two Images of Athletes:

A. A Boxer: “I have **fought the good fight.**”

“Are they servants of Christ?...2 Corinthians 11:23ff.

B. A Runner: “I have finished the race.”

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance **the race** marked out for us.”
Hebrews 12:1-2

“Do you not know that in **a race** all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.” 1 Corinthians. 9:24

V. The Christian Life like running a marathon.

A. To be a victorious runner you need to:

1. _____ Running: Receiving Christ is the start of the Christian Race.

Dear Lord Jesus I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus Name. Amen.

2. _____

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training** in righteousness, that the Christian may be equipped for every good work.” In 2 Timothy 3:16

3. Have an _____ perspective.

“For the joy set before Him endured the cross. “ Hebrews 12:2

4. Compete within the _____.

“Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.” 2 Timothy. 2:5

5. Remember the _____.

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8

VI. Conclusion:

“Thanks be to God who gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:58.