

October 23, 21016  
2 Chronicles 26:1-22; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

## **THE DISCIPLES OLYMPICS: FINISHING WELL**

### **I. Introduction: It's not all about winning**

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.**”*

### **II. King Uzziah: A Man Who Did Not Finish Well:**

“Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, “He had leprosy.” And Jotham his son succeeded him as king.” 2 Chronicles 26:1-23

### **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. “

### **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. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**POINTS TO PONDER**  
**Week of October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Finishing Well**  
**2 Chronicles 26:1-23; 2 Timothy 4:6-7**

### **Open It**

1. \*How can pride be either a good or bad quality in a person?
2. How does wealth, fame, or power change people?

### **Explore It**

3. Who succeeded Ahaziah as king? (26:1-4)
4. \*What was the spiritual reputation of Uzziah? (26:5)
5. Who was Uzziah's spiritual mentor and instructor? (26:5)
6. What success did Uzziah have in establishing his kingdom? (26:6-8)

7. What building projects did Uzziah undertake? (26:9-10)
8. What were the numbers and capabilities of Uzziah's army? (26:11-15)
9. \*What led to Uzziah's downfall? (26:16)
10. \*What did Uzziah do in the temple that displeased the Lord? (26:16-18)
11. What happened to Uzziah when he became angry at the priests for rebuking him? (26:19)
12. How did having leprosy change Uzziah's life? (26:21)
13. Where else in the Bible is the story of Uzziah told? (26:22)

### **Get It**

14. Why did God afflict Uzziah with leprosy?
15. \*What deadly temptations are faced by people who achieve fame, wealth, or power?
16. How can being successful in life have a negative influence on our relationship with God?
17. What did the priestly duties represent for someone like Uzziah, who was not descended from Aaron?
18. \*How can possessing power make us think we are above the law?
19. What fatal mistake did Uzziah make with regard to his successes as king?
20. How can the failure to give thanks to God lead to our spiritual downfall?

### **Apply It**

21. \*How can you remind yourself each day to give thanks for God's blessing on your life?