

April 23, 2023
2 Chronicles 26:1-22;
2 Timothy 4:6-8

GOING THE DISTANCE

I. Introduction:

Going The Distance and Finishing 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 is 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 and Application:

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