

**September 19th, Running to Win**  
**Part 5 in the series 'Go Together'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What did you own 10 years ago that you still own now?

What did you own when you were 5 that you still own now?

**1 Corinthians 9:24-26**

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. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

There's huge range in prizes to win nowadays, from the trivial to the extremely significant. Think of the most important prizes that are 'win-able' on earth. What do people have to do to attain them?

How do these important prizes compare to the prize Paul is talking about?

What is the prize that Paul is talking about?

**A:** salvation- 1 Peter 1:9 "because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

If we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), what does it mean to run the race?

**A:** run by faith, Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." 1 John 5:4-5 "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

**READ Hebrews 12:1**

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,

Can you remember the metaphor Jordan used to describe how sin can entangle us?

**A:** Imagine stepping in a net. You try to keep walking like nothing happened, but it wraps around your foot, getting more and more tangled, and pretty soon you are dragging the whole net behind you with every step you take.

What feelings or emotions can sin and regrets entangle us in?

How does our repentance and God's grace and forgiveness untangle that sin and cause us to run freely?

How does being in Christian community help us each to run more freely in the grace and love of God?

What does it look like to run by faith with aim, as Paul puts it, and perseverance, as the author of Hebrews puts it?

**Go Team World Vision!!**