



1 Corinthians 9:19-27

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<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

<sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Living with purpose helps keep the  
Christian on the right track as we run  
the race of life toward the finish line

A purpose driven life requires Paul, the Corinthians  
AND US to:

- ▣ Understand Our Call
- ▣ Understand Our Culture
- ▣ Train to Run Our Course
- ▣ Travail for Our Crown

# 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

<sup>26</sup> Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

The gospel will either look attractive or be defaced, depending on our willingness to understand and live out of the call God has on our lives.

# Paul's Crown/His Joy! Our Crown/Our Joy!

- ▣ Paul's own Salvation (vs. 27)
- ▣ The people won to or encouraged in Christ because of our lives being lived out with purpose! (vs.19-22)

# Hebrews 12:1-4

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. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.



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