

January 13th, 2013.

A resolution for the New Year: 'I do not run like a man running aimlessly...'

1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

The concept of 'the prize'.

(24) *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.*

- God's love is universal, but salvation ('the Prize') isn't.
- But the 'prize' goes beyond salvation.

The short-run versus the long-run.

(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.*

- The challenge is overcoming the temptations of now, for the benefits of eternal then!

Having a goal transforms life.

(26) *'Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.'*

- Christians have clear goals: (a) Heaven & (b) living as Sons and Daughters of the King (living up to our salvation!)
- Salvation is effortless...living the Christian life is not!
- Nothing substitutes for grace. But grace must lead to a difference in our lives!

Some Resolutions for 2013:

- I dedicate my life to God absolutely.
- I repent of the sins that still spoil my life.
- I repent of the attitudes that lead to mediocrity.
- I will be more open to being filled by the Holy Spirit.
- I will pray more.
- I will read my Bible more.
- I will serve more.
- I will seek to share Jesus more with my family.
- I will pray for opportunities to share Jesus in my community – and not be afraid to speak about Him.

Applying the scripture:

1. What is meant by '*the prize*' in verse 24? Share thoughts on this (and recall what was explored on Sunday).
2. How does 1 Corinthians 3: 11-15 remind us that this refers to more than salvation? How should this make us feel about our Christian life?
3. Look at chapter 9, verses 25-6. What kind of '*training*' should we be doing as Christians? How does this prevent us from '*running aimlessly*' ?
4. Look at the **Resolutions for 2013**. Which of these speaks most strongly to you? Take these into prayer. It may help to repeat them together and then pray about them.