

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 4, No. 6 November 8, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

Prayer List

- **Ken Holloway** – has the flu; otherwise his recovery is progressing well.
- **Martha Holloway** – scheduled for cataract surgery on Thursday (12th).
- **Dema Franklin** – fractured spine needs care and rest.
- **The Martinez family** is due to return this week.
- **Sally Harper's** relative – diagnosed with diabetes.
- **Cassandra Fredrickson** - away at college.
- Please continue to pray for **Samantha Wilson**.
- Marie Adams – recovering from hip and knee surgeries.
- Jeanne Lynne – facing new challenges with cancer.
- **Darlene Huxtable's** mom had recent heart surgery and was diagnosed with cancer.

Sunday Class

Studies in James

Wednesday Class

Bible Character Studies: Jonah

AMAZING RACE

Bubba Garner

Sports are not a recent phenomenon. Man has long been interested and engaged in athletic contests. Their influence is even reflected in the language of the Scriptures, particularly Paul's writings.

"I press on to the goal" (Phil. 3:4).

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1-2).

"I have finished the course" (2 Tim. 4:7).

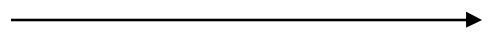
In **2 Corinthians 9**, the apostle devoted an entire paragraph to the comparison of the Christian life with "the games." The Isthmian Games were held every two years at the Isthmus of Corinth, eight miles outside the city. They were modeled after the Olympic Games and included events such as footraces, boxing, wrestling, and chariot races. In such an environment, Paul's Corinthian audience would have had little trouble making the jump from the physical games to their own spiritual contest.

All Christians are involved in a race. It is not a sprint or a dash, but a marathon to be "run with endurance." It is a race that has hurdles and twists and turns and one that must be conducted according to the rules. And unlike sports seasons and games held every two or four years, this is a race that is ongoing.

What does it take to be successful in the Race Of Life?



You have to finish what you've started. *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win" (1 Cor. 9:24).* Running is not the same as winning. Just because you got out of the starting blocks does not mean that you have crossed the finish line. Just because you have run for a little while does not mean that you have gone far enough. In this race, you win when you finish what you've started.



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All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

With the merciful

You will show Yourself merciful;

With a blameless man

You will show Yourself blameless;

With the pure

You will show Yourself pure;

And with the devious

You will show Yourself shrewd.

For You will save the humble people,

But will bring down haughty looks.

For You will light my lamp;

The LORD my God will enlighten my
darkness.

For by You I can run against a troop,

By my God I can leap over a wall.

As for God, His way is perfect;

The word of the LORD is proven;

He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Psalm 18: 20-30

Lead me gently home Father

Lead me gently home

When life's toils are ended

And parting days have come

Sin no more shall tempt me

Ne'er from thee I'll roam

If thou'lt only lead me, Father

Lead me gently home

Lead me gently home, Father

Lead me gently home, Father

Lest I fall upon the way side

Lead me gently home

Will L. Thompson

[Amazing Race]

In the next chapter, Paul used the Israelites as an illustration of this point. They all left the bondage of Egypt. They all passed through Red Sea. But they did not all make it to the Promised Land. Because of their disobedience along the way, most of them "*were laid low in the wilderness*" (**1 Cor. 10:5**).

The Christian race involves determination to complete the journey you have begun. Otherwise, you lose.

You must see the need for discipline. "*Everyone who competes in the games exercises self control in all things*" (**1 Cor. 9:25**). There were specific requirements for the athletes who entered the Isthmian Games. They had to prove that they were of pure Greek blood. They had to show that they had not forfeited their citizenship through misconduct or improper behavior. And they had to demonstrate that they had submitted themselves to ten weeks of training, willingly foregoing things that would interfere with their goals of competition. Otherwise, they were disqualified.

In our culture of convenience, everything must be obtained immediately. We want quick fixes, overnight success, and ten minute abs. But the Christian race is not run this way. It takes time, effort, energy, and deep concentration. It takes a willingness to bring your heart, soul, strength, and mind into subjection to a new Master. It takes a decision to follow the guidelines specified in the Word of God. To run without discipline, as even Paul admitted, is to run the risk of disqualification.

You have to keep your concentration on the prize. "*They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable*" (**1 Cor. 9:25**). The reason an athlete subjects his body to exercise and training is the reward that awaits him. When Craig Biggio was interviewed near the close of his career, he was asked if he would rather be elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame or win the World Series. He didn't skip a beat when he answered, "I want that ring."

In the Isthmian Games, the winner of the contest received a crown made out of olive branches and, in later years, pine leaves. And that was well worth it to them. How much more, then, our "crown of life" (**Rev. 2:10**) and our "unfading crown of glory" (**1 Pet. 5:4**)? It's the reason we started running in the first place. How tragic to forfeit the prize for something of far less value.

Don't take your eye off of where you're going. When you do, you start running in the wrong direction.

We have all overcome obstacles to get this far down the road. There are likely other trials that await us up ahead. But let's not stop until we get home. This is a race to the finish.

Gospel Power, October 11, 2009

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin