

The Determination of a Winning Athlete

Compete by the Rules 2 Timothy 2:5 Chris Mueller 9-2-2018

Introduction:

5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

#1 The **C** _____ of spiritual athletes **5a Also if anyone competes as an athlete**

TURN TO Hebrews 12:1-3

1st The Christian life as an athletic contest begins with _____

1a Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us

2nd The Christian life as an athletic contest involves _____

1b let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us

3rd The Christian life as an athletic contest involves _____

1c and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

Matthew 13:20 The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. John 6:39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

4th The Christian life as an athletic contest involves intimate _____

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

2 Timothy 2:5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete

#2 The C_____ for winning the competition 5b *he does not win the prize*

2 Timothy 4:8 *in the future there is laid up 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.*

Revelation 4:10 *the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne...*

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

#3 The C_____ of the competition 5c *unless he competes according to the rules*

John MacArthur: *In the Greek games, which continued for centuries under Roman rule and were still being held in Paul's time, every participant had to meet three qualifications—birth, training, and competition. First, he had to be a true-born Greek. Second, he had to prepare at least ten months for the games and swear to that before a statue of Zeus. Third, he had to compete within the specific rules for a given event. To fail in any of those requirements meant automatic disqualification.*

TAKE HOME:

#1 Are you _____ and disciplined in your spiritual life?

1 Corinthians 9:24 *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. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

#2 What is the _____ of your spiritual life?

#3 Is Christ your _____ ?

1 John 2:15 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. How is the Christian life like an athletic competition?
2. Why are Christians not as aggressive in their faith as they are in their sports, past times or projects?
3. What would it look like if a community group or an entire church became as determined as athletes in competition?
4. Give some examples of Christians who do not compete according to the rules.
5. What steps do you need to take to be more determined in your WALK/RACE with Christ?
6. How can your focus be more on Christ, and how can Christ truly be your satisfaction above all other people and things?

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