



Our Earthly Battle

1 Corinthians 9:23-27

Paul compared the Christian life to a race, encouraging his readers, “know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (*1 Cor. 9:24*). What are some spiritual truths that athletic competitions can suggest?



- 1) The Lord has won the battle for us! Our outcome is secure. Ultimately, we have taken the tournament title! We can participate in the competition without anxiety, knowing the wonderful conclusion. Our “team” **IS** going to triumph.
- 2) Our reward is imperishable, “Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (*1 Cor. 9:25*). These competitions and trials which seem so significant now will soon be forgotten. **Eternity** is in view.
- 3) Life is a battle; we must not take our eyes off the goal. We must stay focused in this noble conflict., “Fight the good fight of faith” (*1Tim. 6:12*); “I have fought a good fight” (*2 Tim 4:7*). It is indeed a great and good fight!
- 4) However, it’s not “our” battle (e.g., it’s not up to us to choose our goals and to decide what we’re going to do each day). We don’t make the rules; we have a great Heavenly Coach who directs the whole “team” in this battle. Our responsibility is to learn and understand His will, His orders: “The battle is the LORD’s” (*1 Sam. 17:46*); “The battle is not yours, but God’s” (*2 Chron. 20:15*). We need to keep the big picture in view; it’s not all about us! There is a great warfare with much at stake.
- 5) Yet, each one of us is a very important part of the “team,” the body of Christ. “For the body [of Christ] is not one member, but many” (*1 Cor. 12:14*). Every member is needed and important in this great conflict of the ages!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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