

Olympians for Christ

Sunday Morning, August 5, 2012

Thesis:

Be an Olympian for Christ and Receive a Gold Crown of Life!

Introduction: Three Man Race

I. As An Olympian We Must Have Confidence/Faith To Run the Race!

(Hebrews 12:1)

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,

(Hebrews 11: 32 - 12:2)

32 And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength after being weak, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead—they were raised to life again. Some men were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection,

36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated.

38 The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

39 All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised,

40 since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.

II. Prepare Your Heart To Be A Successful Olympian for Christ

(Matthew 13: 1 – 9)

1 On that day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.

2 Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat down, while the whole crowd stood on the shore.

3 Then He told them many things in parables, saying: "Consider the sower who went out to sow.

4 As he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

5 Others fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil, and they sprang up quickly since the soil wasn't deep.

6 But when the sun came up they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered.

7 Others fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.

8 Still others fell on good ground and produced a crop: some 100, some 60, and some 30 times what was sown. 9 Anyone who has ears should listen!"

(I Corinthians 9: 24 – 27)

24 Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize.

25 Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away, but we a crown that will never fade away.

26 Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air.

27 Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

III. Like Olympians Run the Race For the Gold!

Gold Represents The Glory of God
How is God's Glory Revealed to Others?

(Matthew 5: 13 – 16)

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Salt and Light of the Christian's Life Reveals God
to Those Who Are Watching!

Every Believer in Christ Has the Responsibility to
Preserve (Salt) Those Things Which Are Good and
Reveal the Truth (Light) of God's Word to Others

(James 1:12)

A man who endures trials is blessed, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

Receive the Crown of Life!

Conclusion:

Be An Olympian for Christ and Receive the Gold Crown of Life!