

Finishing the Race

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 4.

B. How one starts life does not matter—what matters is how one ends up.

II. Endure by focusing on the rewards and trusting in God. (I Corinthians 9:24)

A. Remove all distractions.

1. God has given you a unique race.

2. One must let go of all things that holds him back. (Isaiah 48:14)

B. Remember the reason and the reward. (II Corinthians 4:1)

1. We look for a heavenly reward.

2. There is internal, external and eternal motivation. The last is the greatest.

C. Renew yourself daily. God's goodness in the past and present and power in the future gives hope.

D. Resist discouragement. (Galatians 6:9)

1. Discouragement is a deadly enemy.

2. A man's greatness is to be determined by what it takes to discourage him.

E. Rely on Christ.

1. The only way one can accomplish God's vision is through God's power.

2. We know that a purpose is from God when the task is too great for us to accomplish by ourselves. (I Peter 4:11)

3. God is not through with you and the race is not over. (Philippians 1:6)

4. God will never give up on you. (Acts 13:36)

Application questions:

1. How can we endure on God's mission for our lives?

2. Why rely on Christ?

3. What fears do you have about engaging God's purpose for your life? What encouragement does the Bible bring to us about the purpose-driven life?
