

Can you lose the race?



“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

I Corinthians 9:24, 27 NKJV



“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

Hebrews 3:12-19 NKJV

*Yes! You can lose the race!! If the race is for the inheritance of the kingdom and your endurance and perseverance in the process of becoming holy is not finished, then Yes.
P.S. notice “unbelief” equals disobedience. Please, don’t be deceived!

What happens when you don’t finish your race of sanctification?:



“Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

Revelation 3:3 NKJV

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

Revelation 3:10 NKJV

““He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ””

Revelation 2:11 NKJV

*If you have not died to self during your lifetime welcome to the “second death”.

“I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”

Revelation 2:23 NKJV

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV

“If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

I Corinthians 3:15 NKJV

““But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Matthew 24:36-44 NKJV

*The big difference the Scriptures tell us between the days of Noah and the coming day of the Lord is instead of a flood it will be tribulation fire! In the article “cleansing and refining” we understand that it is a process God is committed to finishing!

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Hebrews 10:26-31, 38-39 NKJV

*It just so happens that the two or three witnesses that will be our judge on the last day is the Holy Trinity itself: Father, Son , Holy Spirit. These three are actually represented by the “Seals”, “Trumpets”, and “Bowls”.

Please take the warnings in these last days, repent and secure every aspect and portion of your lives:

“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”

I Thessalonians 5:6-8 NKJV

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

I Thessalonians 5:23, 28 NKJV



Questions for reflection:

1. Notice the two goals of this race: the holiness without which no one will see God, and the inheritance promised to the faithful. How has your interpretation of both of these changed?

“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:12-14 ESV

2. What kind of comparisons can you draw from an Olympic track race? A relay perhaps?
3. Does the idea behind winning or losing this race inspire you? In what ways? Does it discourage you? Explain.
4. Make some time to watch and reflect on the movie “Chariots of Fire”. What are the spiritual implications of the story between Mark Abrams and Eric Liddell? Which viewpoint best describes you and why?

*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!

