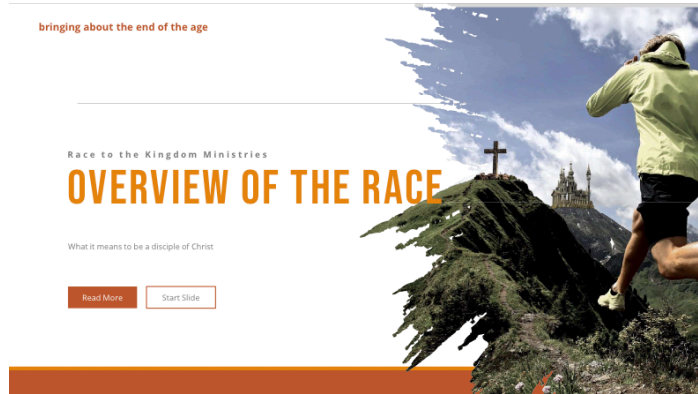


## The Race to the Kingdom:

### Overview

Jesus' message to his disciples about the Kingdom of God has been watered down through the centuries to the point that few truly understand what it means to walk with Christ and to earn our inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Through this website, available in both video and audio versions, Keith McKay and Robert Ridenour explore the topics using the Holy Scriptures as their reference material and a sports/coaching analogy. Along the way they "myth-bust" conventional teachings and offer valuable insights on the amazing and complex book that God has given us. You'll discover concepts that will power your own journey of learning and, hopefully, change the path of your walk with Jesus.



### Intro:

The race to the kingdom began when Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. The race is to recover all that was lost in the garden: intimacy with God, having dominion over the earth, and living in a land without death or decay. Every story throughout the Bible has been an attempt to recover these privileges and finally rest from the effects of sin on the earth and in our soul. Jesus Christ was the promise that God gave to deliver us from this current fallen condition and restore these privileges back to mankind. Jesus is actually called our "forerunner" in the understanding of the race He is running to reconcile all things back to God.

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."  
Hebrews 6:19-20 ESV

"For in him (Jesus) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister."  
Colossians 1:19-23 ESV

\*We who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ as our forerunner are now invited into a race in order to receive the promised rewards of inheritance given to His faithful followers.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ESV

\*The race to receive this imperishable inheritance is one of our biggest New Covenant incentives to live a faithful life pleasing to God so as to not be disqualified.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

\*The Apostles were given a great commission to go make disciples of all nations teaching them to observe all Gods commands. The offer to become a disciple of Jesus was not a call to an easier life but to a more difficult life. It is a call to service as a faithful citizen of a new kingdom that begins with no longer serving the ruler of this world and our own desires but living for God.

“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”  
Luke 14:27 ESV

“so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,”  
Colossians 1:10-13 ESV

\*Remember, we now have been qualified to walk in newness of life as an ambassador for Christ. We carry with us the message of reconciliation inviting others into this race with us. The promise of a kingdom to come and our Lord and Master coming back with His reward is the motivation we need to “fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith”.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth 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.”  
2 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV

\*A true disciple understands what it means to love His appearing. Only a faithful disciple would look forward to the righteous judge returning. An unfaithful disciple would run and hide as Adam and Eve did when God came to visit them in the Garden. Even though they received their animal skin coverings, they still lost their privileges. It will be the same with us who are running our race after being covered in the blood of Jesus.

“Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.”  
Revelation 20:6 ESV

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”  
Revelation 22:12-13 ESV

\*Let the love of God and Jesus Christ motivate you to love Him back and give up your life to follow as a faithful disciple. If you have felt like you have blown it, repent and get back up and remember your calling as Jesus reminded Peter of his.

“He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep...and after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”  
John 21:17, 19 ESV

