

1 Cor. 9:24-27

A NEW *Beginning*



LOOK TO THE CROSS FOR ETERNAL HOPE

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.



Paul's Evangelism

- He has the right message.
- He has the deep motive of love for Christ.
- He has a sense of the divine call.
- He has a great boldness.
- He has the energizing power of the Spirit.
- He has a strategy.
- He has a great desire to see people saved.
- He would do anything to see that happen



I. THE EXTENT OF PASSION TO WIN THE LOST, 9:19

1 Cor. 9:19 For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

A. The Self-Denial, 9:19a “For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all...”

B. The Spiritual Desire, 9:19b “...that I might gain the more. “

II. THE EXECUTION OF THE PROCEDURES TO WOO THE LOST, 9:20-23

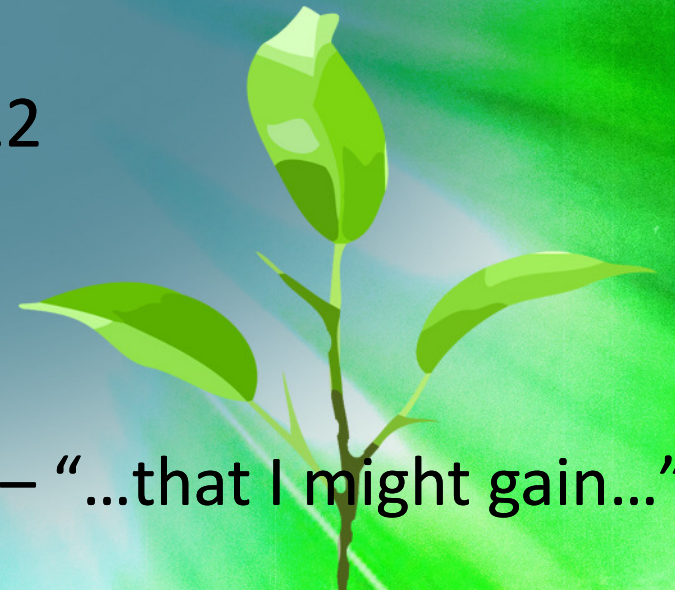
A. The Methods Revealed, 9:20-22

Acts 15:19-21

Acts 16:1-3

Gal. 2:11-14

B. The Motive Reiterated, 9:20-23 – “...that I might gain...”



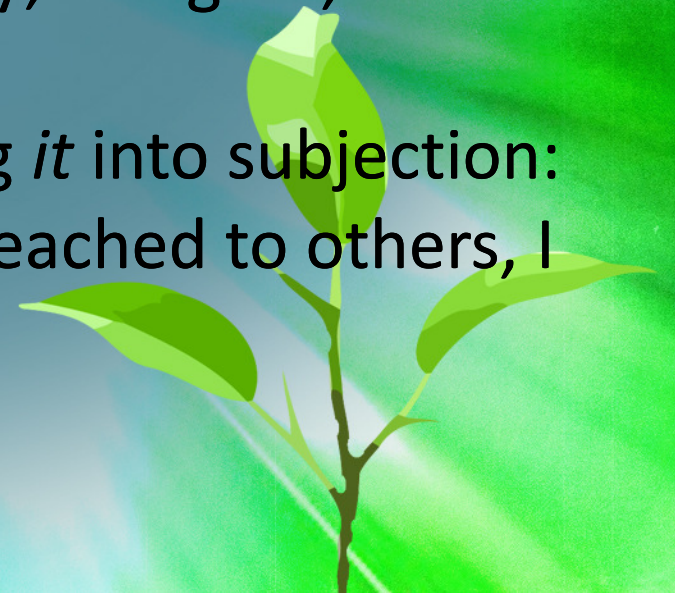
III. THE EXAMPLE OF PERFORMANCE TO WIN THE LAURELS, 9:24-27

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

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A. The Prize Must Be Considered, 9:24

1. The Purpose Recognized, 9:24a – “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize...”
2. The Participation Required, 9:24b – “...So run, that ye may obtain.”

B. The Preparation Must Be Conscientious, 9:25

1. The Self-discipline Expected, 9:25a – “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things...”
2. The Simple Differences Expounded, 9:25b – “...Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”

C. The Participation Must Be Conclusive, 9:26-27

1. The Winner is Focused, 9:26 – “I therefore so run, **not as uncertainly**; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:”
2. The Winner is Fastidious, 9:27 – “But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”



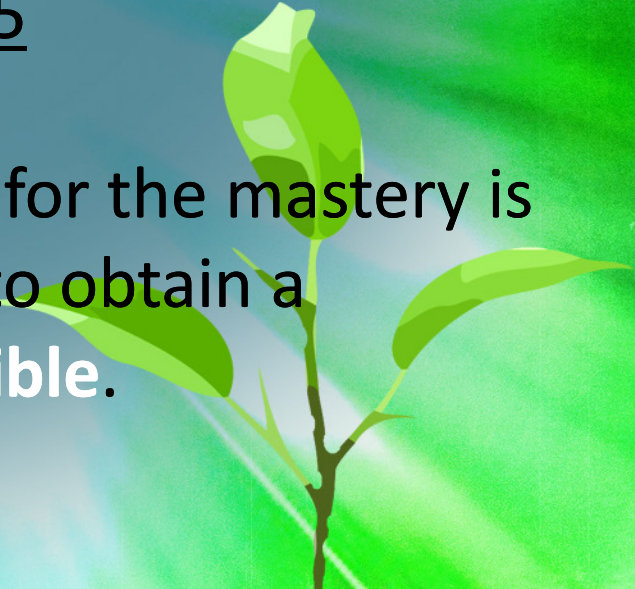
a. In preparation, 9:27a – “But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection...”

b. In performance, 9:27b – “...lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

FIVE CROWNS

- The Incorruptible Crown – 1 Cor. 9:25

1 Cor. 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an **incorruptible**.



- The Crown of Life – Rev. 2:10

Rev. 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

- The Crown of Glory – 1 Pet. 5:4

1 Pet. 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a **crown of glory** that fadeth not away.



- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim. 4:8

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Th. 2:19-20 (Soul-winner's Crown)

1 Th. 2:19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
20 For ye are our glory and joy.



Conclusion

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

- We have a race to run.
- We are to run in order to obtain the crown.
- We are to discipline ourselves to run and win. (“...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*...”)
- We are to focus our attention on the motive – for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We are to cast our crowns before His throne.

Rev. 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns before the throne**, saying,

11 **Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power;** for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.