

Christ, Culture, & The Cross

Are You Running To Win?

1 Corinthians 9:23-27

The Games

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The Letter of 1 Corinthians

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The Isthmian Games

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Four Key Questions

1) _____ You _____ . . . To _____?

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

(Jeremiah 29:13)

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

(Proverbs 2:1-6)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

(Matthew 5:6)

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection. . . . [This] one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things.

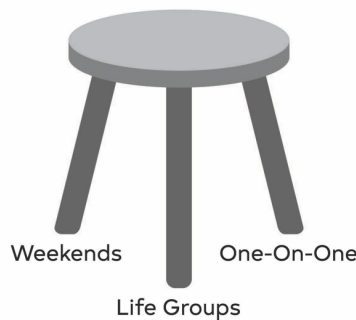
(Philippians 3:10, 13-15)

2) _____ There _____ ... To _____?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

3) _____ ... Is Your _____?

I am constantly astonished at people who say they believe in God but live as though happiness were to be found by giving him 2 percent of their attention. Surely the end of the ages will reveal this to be absurd. (John Piper, *Desiring God*)



4) _____ ... Your _____?

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. (1 Corinthians 9:25)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:24)