

WINNING REWARDS at the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST!

Winning Rewards at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

We are studying the doctrines of these. Don't Lose your Rewards after the Rapture at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

You do not earn Salvation, but you can earn rewards at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

Live your life in Light of Eternity—**JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

Will you be Ashamed at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

Will all the good you do in your life be acceptable at **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?**

Introduction to the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

Preparing for the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

The Importance of the PASTOR Teacher
in preparation for the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

Gold, Silver and Precious Stones: What are these?

You are a HOLY TEMPLE, be careful of what you are made up of. Now it is time to look **at winning these Rewards** to be presented by JESUS CHRIST at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** Rewards you can earn during your life on earth that will last for all eternity.

Many believers in false humility like to disclaim rewards and doing things for the Lord for rewards.

First: We must understand that rewards given to believers at **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** glorify Jesus Christ.

Second: You should know that receiving rewards is often spoken of in Word of God and **JESUS CHRIST Himself** often speaks of rewards.

Third: **JESUS CHRIST Himself** will present these rewards at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**, right after the rapture of the Church.

So, since they are important enough to be mentioned over and over throughout the New Testament and since **JESUS CHRIST Himself** will present these rewards, they should be important to us throughout our lives.

Since they are important to JESUS CHRIST, they should be important to us.

Since JESUS CHRIST Himself will personally give these rewards they should be important to us, and we should endeavor to receive as many rewards as we can in the short time we have here on earth.

It is now time to look at some of the
Rewards mentioned in Scripture.

Let us start with a passage that should encourage us to both desire and live so as to receive rewards at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**.

1 Corinthians 9:24

24 **Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only one* receives the prize?
Run in such a way that you may win.**

Paul here is referring to the games ran here during his time; There were several like **Olympic games**. The winners received a wreath not crowns as we think of crowns.

Some of the events at these games:

Chariot races;

Wrestling;

Boxing,

Various track events...

throwing the javelin and discus short and long distance.

And one more that you might find interesting:

Pankration was a sporting event introduced into the Greek Olympic Games in 648 BC and founded as a blend of boxing and wrestling but with scarcely any rules. The only things not acceptable were biting and gouging of the opponent's eyes, mouth or genitals.

The term comes from the Greek meaning "all of might" from πάν (pan-) "all" and κράτος (kratos) "strength, might, power".

Winners might marry rich women, enjoy free meals, invitations to parties, and the best seats in the theatre and in some cases a life-time payment from their home cities.

Not only were women not allowed to participate, married women were not allowed to attend; single women could attend.

However, every four years there was a race for women only in honor of Hera, the wife of Zeus.

So, in the following verses Paul draws from these games of which everyone... including the ladies would have been most familiar with.

The first is from the oldest event— and the most common running and boxing.

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only one* receives the prize?

Run in such a way that you may win.

Do you not know nearly everyone knew about the games, they were part of their politics, religion and social-life.

that those who run in a race all run but only one receives the prize

The contestants prepared for 10 months before the game in rigorous training. But... only one winner. In a morally weak society like we have today many –especially mothers want to do away with winners... but that is part of history. And even for Christians involved in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** there is a prize to be won at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**.

Run in such a way that you may win

This is a present imperative, noting the consistent life of the believer; then we have the Aorist Subjunctive.

that you may win

Maybe you will win, maybe not; in the Spiritual Warfare, God has it set up where every believer may win! He has more than just one prize.

Every born-again believer is to run in this race of **ANGELIC CONFLICT**. You should view your life as running in a race in the Spiritual Warfare.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, (As a result of all the Faith Heroes listed in chapter 11) **since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,** (All those named and those not named) **let us also lay aside every encumbrance**

(We could spend a great deal of time here; the Greek word means a weight or burden;

Now using this in the spiritual journey this refers to non-sinful weights we put on ourselves; getting our lives so full of activities we do not have time for Bible class, or Bible study;

We get so involved with work or pleasurable things, sports, athletics, TV, FACEBOOK, etc. None of these things are sinful but they are weights to our spiritual momentum, they are encumbrances.

and the sin which so easily entangles us,

What is so interesting here is the presence of the definite article: **the sin,** (Or as it is in the original:)

the entangling sin or the most besetting sin

(Every believer has trends of sin, or a pattern of sin that always seems to creep into our lives and cause us trouble in our spiritual life, growing in the Word of God or in Living by FAITH, or in Spiritual Love toward One Another. And please remember that this sin may be a MAS (Mental Attitude Sin), or and a S-T (Sin of the Tongue) or an Overt Sin.

Now we come to the very important...

let us lay aside

(This introduces the HOW in the Spiritual Life.

Let us take an athlete preparing for the big Olympic Games: all he has to do to get into condition for the race:

First: **Things he must stop doing:**

Stop eating and drinking foods and drinks that are not beneficial to his conditioning; Stop carousing;

Second: **Things he must start doing**

He must get the right amount of sleep; exercise—training...training...training.

And the writer of Hebrews relates the Christian Way of Life to a born-again believer getting in condition to run in the Spiritual Warfare.

First: things he must stop doing.

This is introduced by the Aorist Participle.

PRINCIPLE:

Action of the Aorist Participle precedes the action of the main verb is **let us run** which is our study:

Now before we can **run** in the Spiritual Life we have to lay aside sin or sins that encumber us.

This introduces the negative.

But the question is How?

How do we lay aside sins that encumber us?

This is much simpler than all that the athlete has to do...

but it is not easy:

SIMPLE BUT NOT EASY.

**He must walk by FAITH in the Holy Spirit
and in the power of the Holy Spirit...
he stops sinning!**

That is what **lay aside** means to lay off, to lay down, to renounce.

Now this is very important. Many Christians do indeed lay aside these things. *In the flesh they stop practicing these things* and there is no more spiritual benefit than when an unbeliever lays aside these things.

Let us parallel the believer laying aside these things to an athlete doing things under the influence of drugs.—disqualified

So, there is no benefit before God, laying these things aside in the flesh. We must lay them aside **by FAITH in the Holy Spirit.**

Hebrews 12:1

therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbering sin which easily entangles us and let us (believers) **run with endurance** (this is a beautiful word in the Greek **hupomone** –to persevere, to remain under; endurance as to things or circumstances.

The Holy Spirit will give you endurance in regard to things and circumstances. What do you mean by **circumstances.**

–finance, sickness, illness, yours or someone close conflict of interest, time scheduling, etc.

Ok, here is the point **things** and **circumstances** can and often do interfere with our spiritual momentum.

Remember Murphy's Law—_("If anything can go wrong, it will").

It is amazing how many believers get their lives so tangled up, so busy in so many things that get in the way of or slow down their spiritual momentum.

the race that is set before us,

What is this race?

We have a clue in Hebrews 12:1

You must view your life as a race in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT;**

A race... a run to Spiritual Maturity.

Galatians 5:7

you—you all—were running well together as a team.

As a local church...growing in the Word of God encouraging One Another, missionary support, etc.

Then something happened.

who hindered you

That all-inclusive “**WHO**”—Satan, the World, or the flesh of One Another.

Next we have an insight into the race we are all in from obeying the truth

Here is the positive side to our race—**obeying the truth**

And what is the obedience that God is looking for?

That is right... **FAITH, walking by FAITH in the Holy Spirit.**

Now a fair question:

How do we know that is **obeying the truth?**

Colossians 2:6

Back to Galatians 5

There is so much to learn about running race in life:

Verse 7 **you were running well**

But I don't want you to miss the positives of training and living and running:

Verse 1 **keep standing firm:**

Wait, how can you stand firm and run at the same time?

Every athlete needs to understand this,
Every Christians needs to understand this:
You stand firm in your training rules...
stand firm in what to eat and what not to eat,
stand firm in what to drink and not drink,
stand firm in your sleep pattern...
then you run during the day...

So, in the Christian life you stand Firm
in Grace—FAITH—Word of God

and **do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery**

In the spiritual life—this is do not come under Law or Legal.

So, in Galatians 5 –in regard to running the race:

Rule 1: Is stand firm in Grace—FAITH in the Holy Spirit—Word of God.

Rule 2: Running well.

Rule 3: Do not be hindered in your running... that is, do not become hindered by encumbrance and entangling sins Hebrews 12:1.

One thing you have to know about an athlete—they are free, they can cheat, they can sin, they can be distracted by things in life... so,

Rule 4: Is found in Galatians 5:13 and Colossians 2:6

Rule 5: In the spiritual race that we are all in, we do not compete with One Another in life in the games, ALL RUN. But only one win the prize —the crown, but in the spiritual race every believer can win the crowns and we are to help One Another. Look what happens when you compete with One Another.
Look at verses 15; and 26.

One thing that plagues a lot of would-be athletes is fatigue.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Now back to 1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

Win what?

Make no doubt about this fact:

There is inequality in Heaven... in Eternity Future.

There are some who do not like this idea; but they refuse to understand that there will be no Inherited Sin Nature, so there will be no jealousy—listen, if you, in the flesh can drive through a very rich neighborhood and not lust, not be jealous, not resentful, (especially when Filled with the Holy Spirit) how much more is this?

1 Corinthians verse 25 introduces us to the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

Everyone who competes (Here I love the King James)
striveth for the mastery

I love this translation—if we take it this way—every believer strives for mastery of the Spirit Filled Life—mastery of glorifying JESUS CHRIST; not competing but striving to be the best we can be for Christ!

The Greek word originally meant **to contend for victory in the public games**. And, again if we understand it that way, every believer can live ‘the victorious life’ which is lived in the Power and Leading of the Holy Spirit;
public games this is the Angelic Conflict—before the eyes of God, angels and man!

*Please never lose sight of the fact that angels are watching,
they are interested in mankind,
they are interested in you, they learn by watching mankind.*

*So here we are in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** seen by angels
as well as mankind,
especially those closest to you—family, friends, associates.*

To contend for victory in the public games—to strive for victory in the ANGELIC CONFLICT .

People we have to live today in view of eternity.

The Greek word came to be used in general: **to fight**

There are some Pastor Teachers or Teachers who do not like the idea of the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**; they say the battle is already won and the Christian Way of Life should not be characterized as a battle; we just live by FAITH **and therein is the battle for every born again believer...** We are in a battle of **FAITH.**

1. We are to live by FAITH, walk by FAITH—FAITH in the Holy Spirit.
2. We must understand that FAITH always has an object; The FAITH that the Christian is to live by is not ***fatalistic*** FAITH that is ***casar sura***, “whatever will be will be” and so the Christian is not to strive or fight but just accept whatever happens and this is the FAITH God is looking for.

This is NOT the FAITH God is looking for; God is looking for FAITH in His Spirit... moment by moment.

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit; walk by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit; be led by the Holy Spirit—and we are led by the Holy Spirit when we trust Him to guide;

live by the Holy Spirit; keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

None of these even hint at ***fatalistic faith***.

FAITH is the action of every believer in the Angelic Conflict.

3. Now here is the battle, the fight every moment of everyday for the believer. **Faith is opposed to and by our Inherited Sin Nature, our flesh nature.** Our flesh nature does not want to surrender control to anyone, especially to God, God the Holy Spirit. FAITH is antithetical to our flesh nature.
4. This conflict is seen in Galatians 5:17
For the flesh This is our Inherited Sin Nature that runs through every cell in our bodies **sets its desire against the Spirit,** This introduces the inner battle, the inner conflict of every born-again believer.

Some believers do not know about this inner battle because they just surrendered over to the flesh, but there are those believers who daily experience this inner conflict.

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh sets its desire...

This is Present Active Indicative which means all the time, this is going on inside of you all the time; when you are in the Holy Spirit, the flesh is setting its desire against the Holy Spirit; and when you are in the flesh, the Holy Spirit is setting its desire against the flesh.

sets its desire This word zeros in on the inner conflict, where the battle is taking place: *επιθυμew* compound word from *επι* In + *θυμωσ* the mind.

The daily battle is for control of your mind! Not your emotions, not your pocket books; but for your mind—if you control the mind you control the emotions and you control the pocket books;

If God controls your mind, He controls your emotions and your pocket books;

If your flesh controls your mind, the flesh also controls your emotions and your pocket book.

The battle is a battle for the mind!! You must be on constant alert as to what is going on in your mind!

Remember it is a *CHOICE* !

You, by your own volition decide what is going on in your mind! It has come to my attention the unbelievable control pornography has over the minds in America. I have not mentioned it too much because I just did not realize that it is so predominant in America. Along with other addictions! But you must remember that you first make a mental decision to entertain pornography or any other addiction. When these thoughts want to control your mind, you must immediately make a counter decision to think about JESUS CHRIST, the Word of God; the Holy Spirit; that you are a Temple of God and the Holy Spirit Indwells you...

Give your mind something else to think about.—

Here is what is going on inside you: **The flesh**—Inherited Sin Nature, and let me remind you something, this is not the real you! When you die this drops off and is **left behind**. It does not go with your soul and spirit nor is it in your Resurrected body. You make a decision to allow it to think for you, control you, set its desires in you and remember, the desires of your flesh are against the desires of the Holy Spirit.

For the flesh sets its desire. —have your thoughts, your mind directed toward what it desires.

Against the Holy Spirit—So inside of every one of us running through our bodies is the Inherited Sin Nature and the Holy Spirit--and both are seeking to control your thinking and you get to decide which one will control you. The lust, the pleasures of the flesh or the desire of the Holy Spirit which is to glorify JESUS CHRIST—who died for you;

What did your flesh ever do for you? Gets you into trouble...

But the Spirit of God—the Holy Spirit sets its desire—that is control your thoughts --and He directs your thoughts to the glory of JESUS CHRIST.

For the flesh sets its desire I want you to notice that this is in the singular, not **desires** but **desire** It has one desire and that is to satisfy self!!

And the Holy Spirit has one desire—to glorify JESUS CHRIST in you and through you.

For the flesh sets its desire against the Holy Spirit

See that word **against?** That is in the original text and it introduces the **personal conflict**, the **personal fight** that every believer has going on inside of you all the time...

AGAINST your flesh is Against the Holy Spirit, is against JESUS CHRIST and is battling for control of your mind.

Now watch out! **WARNING**

*you may be thinking about JESUS CHRIST,
you may be singing about JESUS CHRIST,
you may be talking about JESUS CHRIST,
but all from the flesh... it is still about you.*

How wonderful you are, how much you love and do and serve Him, but it is not about Him, it is about you! We have to be constantly aware of what is going on in our minds...

This whole battle is about choice you have to make this choice all the time—whether it is your flesh or the Holy Spirit who is going to control and you get to decide.

For the flesh sets its desire against the Holy Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh

The verb to set its desire is understood—so again we get a vivid picture of the fight going on inside...

Your flesh in one corner and the Holy Spirit in the other and they want to control your mind and your thinking;
The way you think about God, about the Word of God; about prophecy, about morality.

for these your flesh, the Holy Spirit; both inside of you **are in opposition to one another**, This is another clever compound word in the Greek. It is made up of a prefix—**against** + the Greek word meaning **to be placed to be placed against One Another**; to oppose One Another is just another way of letting us know there is a battle going on inside of every one of us--and this is real and this is going on inside of us....

Now; **WARNING** It is very easy to shut off the influence of the Holy Spirit;

not listen to Him,
do not go to church,
do not study or
even read your bibles;
do not associate with those who do go to church,
who do study their bibles—

And very soon you pay no attention to the Holy Spirit.

**But you can never shut off the flesh, the Inherited Sin Nature;
it is always there seeing to gain control.**

Now the last phrase is interesting in regard to this inner battle:

so that

This introduces something interesting and another warning something that happens due to this inner struggle between your flesh and the Holy Spirit:

so that you may not do the things that you please

This once again takes Calvinism out of the picture:

The word please is **thelo** to Will, to wish, to desire which calls on active volition and purpose;

There are two Greek words which demand a great deal of time that we are not going to give it here:

1. **Boulema**—to will, to intend, design but not pressing on to execute that will, to intention.
2. **Thelo** our word relays the idea of not only willing to do something but pressing on to action.

And this is important for it shows the intensity of this inward battle going on---You have something you really desire to do and you are resolved to do it...

but The flesh nature fights and gains control so that you do not come to bible class, you do not study the Word of God, you do not pray, etc.

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh the old you, Inherited Sin Nature **sets its desire** in the mind **against the Spirit,** **and the Spirit against the flesh;** **for these are in opposition to one another,**

And you have to make a volitional decision as to which one will win the control over your mind **so that you may not do the things that you are determined to do.**

5. Paul speaks of this inner battle in 1 Timothy 6:12
Fight the good fight of faith; Here Paul tells us what the inner battle is really over, FAITH verses not trusting the Holy Spirit
take hold of the eternal life We must live our lives in light of Eternity Future, not now, in light of the Spiritual not the material
to which you were called, Gospel call to every born-again believer
and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. This goes back to the fact that Angels are watching, man is watching... especially, those close to you... in your home, family, work, social.

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course,

Back to the Games analogy, then he explains that this is not of the body but inside--FAITH

I have kept the faith;

Again, people, FAITH is the battle; the flesh is opposed to FAITH, FAITH is antithetical as to how the flesh functions.

We are in a constant battle to trust the Holy Spirit.

6. Then Paul, by application, encourages all believers to enter this battle and fight this good fight:
1 Timothy 1:18
This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, That is, fight the good fight of FAITH... remember this fight is going on inside of

you—your flesh wants, and desires your Lust to control you...
but you must fight the good fight of FAITH.

7. Remember that if you are in the Holy Spirit, if you are fighting by FAITH in the Holy Spirit the Lord is on your side:

Zechariah 10:5

“They will be as mighty men, Treading down *the enemy* in the mire of the streets in battle; And they will fight, for the LORD will be with them; And the riders on horses will be put to shame.

That is those who put their confidence in their horses and swords will be put to shame by those whose FAITH and Confidence is in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 9:25

Everyone who competes—strives for mastery! In the Games exercises self-control in all things.

This passage is filled with inner struggle of the believer in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT.**

Exercises self-control Does this ring a bell in your soul?

Do you not know that he who is Filled with the Holy Spirit **exercises self-control.**

They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. First, let us note the word **wreath** The King James incorrectly translates this **crown** The Greek word is **stephanos.** There is another Greek word translated ‘crown’ **diadem.**

This is not given by JESUS CHRIST to believers at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**. JESUS CHRIST Himself was crowned with *diadem* on the cross, crown –diadem of thorns, but He will come with **many diadems** when He comes again. Revelation 19:12.

This should not be thought of as ‘many crowns’ but rather *diadem* which was something like silk or linen that would be wrapped around the head like a turban. In contrast a Stephanos was like a wreath won at the Olympic games, a garland made of various leaves and it was a medal of honor to the winner of that event. Of course, this was perishable. But the wreath won by believers at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** will be imperishable –not capable of corruption. You will have this wreath for all eternity. These are eternal rewards.

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

There is nothing more heartbreaking than a wasted life!
And many Christians live their lives as beating the air or without aim. And in this study our aim should be to receive rewards at
JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

Why?

Because these rewards do not glorify you,
but they glorify Jesus Christ...
that you lived your life for Him, to glorify Him.

The primary rewards are referred to as Crowns.

We will start next on examining the crowns or
wreaths of rewards that you can receive
at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**