

Diligent Journey

The life we have, is given to us by God in order for us to live for HIM - Heb 12:1 - 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.

God chose when and where all were born for a purpose - Acts 17:24-27 - 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and **HE DETERMINED** the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 **God did this so** that men would SEEK HIM and perhaps REACH OUT FOR HIM and FIND HIM, though he is not far from each one of us.

- **Seek Him** – Realize how much we **NEED** the true God.
- **Reach out for Him** – Make the life effort to have a relationship with God.
- **Find Him** – Living the correct Godly life in complete relationship with Him.

There is a divine order to how we are to live - 2 Tim 2:3-6 - 3 **Endure hardship** with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to **please his commanding officer**. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not **receive the victor's crown** unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the **first to receive a share of the crops**.

1.) Live to please Christ 2.) Live life exactly the way He says. 3.) Work hard to receive His rewards

3 Characteristics needed to diligently run our race of life

Purpose

Everything we do must be for God - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **WHATEVER YOU DO**, do it all for the glory of God.

UNDERSTAND, your purpose will determine your outcome - Gal 6:7-9 - 7 **Do not be deceived**: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows TO PLEASE HIS SINFUL NATURE, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows TO PLEASE THE SPIRIT, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 **Let us not become weary in doing good**, for **AT THE PROPER TIME** we will reap a harvest IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

Correct Focus

There is only one focus - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT by sight.

Sight is dangerously deceptive - Prov 16:25 There is a way that SEEMS RIGHT to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Make sure our worship of God is based on God not man - Mark 7:6-8 - 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They **WORSHIP ME IN VAIN**; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" 8 You have **let go of the commands of God** and are **holding on to the traditions of men**."

Accountability

Don't let your background or circumstances define you, serve God no matter the situation - 1 Cor 7:17-24 - 17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. **KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS IS WHAT COUNTS**. 20 **Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him**. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 **You were bought at a price**; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.

Do what God told YOU to do despite what HE tells others - John 21:18-22 - 18 I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 **Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God**. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" 20 **Peter turned and saw** that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "**Lord, what about him?**" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, **WHAT IS THAT TO YOU? YOU MUST FOLLOW ME**."

Prepare and live to win the prize - 1 Cor 9:24-27 -24 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**. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but **we do it to get a crown that will last forever**. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, **I BEAT MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE** so that after I have preached to others, **I myself will not be disqualified for the prize**.

Lock on our perfect example - Heb 12:2-3 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him** endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **CONSIDER HIM** who endured such opposition from sinful men, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart**.