

## 1 Corinthians 9:24

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

God has given each and everyone of us a race to run to obtain the prize, which is being with Jesus in heaven. Yet how many are so concerned with others and their race, that they neglect their own race that they are running?

Think about this, how many watched the Super Bowl last Sunday and thought the this guy should had run this way, and that guy should had blocked that way and he should had thrown the ball to that other guy and not the one he threw it to so the other team intercepted because he messed up and should had listened to me and blah, blah, blah.

Some think that they know how to direct and tell others how to run their race, and they think it's their duty to do so, while they fall further and further behind in their race (walk) with the Lord. But at the end of what Paul was saying in today's verse, he ended it with.

† **1 Corinthians 9:27** *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

Notice he says, “*my body*” not someone else's. Why? “*lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*” Paul spoke of this to the Romans as well when he said:

† **Romans 2:21-24 (NLT2)** *Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the Scriptures say, “The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.”*

Jesus also said in regards to this:

† **Matthew 7:3-5** *And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

And we know these things, yet do we follow them? How often are we trying to tell someone else how to run their race, or how to have a relationship with Jesus, yet ours is failing and our

relationship with the Lord is not what it should be. Do you tell others to read God's word, but you don't? Do you tell others to pray and you don't? Do you tell others to tithe, but you don't?

James said: ***“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22*** it's so easy to tell others what to do, but unless you are leading them by example, your words mean nothing.

† **1 Corinthians 11:1** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

† **Hebrews 13:7 (NLT2)** *Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.*