

The Super Bowl

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Introduction

Next Sunday a group of 88 men will gather in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA, to determine the National Football League championship. The game has come to be known as the Super Bowl. But the real Super Bowl is not in Pasadena, CA. We participate in it every day.

I. The goal

1 Corinthians 9:25b, 24b NIV They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Run in such a way as to get the prize.

- A. To successfully complete our Christian life
- B. To stand before God uncondemned
- C. To receive the victor's commendation

Matthew 25:21a NIV His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

II. The discipline

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

- A. Involves conditioning

Hebrews 12:1b NIV ...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.

- B. Involves commitment

1 Corinthians 9:26 NIV Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like one beating the air.

- C. Involves coordination

1 Corinthians 12:18 NIV But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, just as he wanted them to be.

III. The danger

1 Corinthians 9:27 NIV 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.

- C. Of being distracted

- 1. By earthly ambitions
- 2. By our own success
- 3. By the actions of others
- 4. By our own fatigue

- B. Of not being diligent

- C. Of losing heart

- 1. Inaccurate self evaluation
- 2. Impatience to get to the goal
- 3. Perception that we are on the sideline