

Seek To Finish Well

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa

1Corinthians 9:15-27

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.” (1Corinthians 9:24-27, ESV)

Introduction

Last week we began to speak about the rights and privileges of Christian workers and of how these rights and privileges really belong to every faithful disciple of Christ and not just those who are recognized as clergy as different from those who are seen as the laity. Although we may not have the same set of gifts, skills, personality, environment or opportunity, every disciple of Christ has the same rights, privileges and responsibilities.

1. Rights, privileges and responsibility of Christ’s disciples. (vv.15-19)

a) We have rights and privileges because we are heirs with Christ Jesus (Ro8:17, Ep3:6)

b) A steward must prove him or herself faithful until the completion of their assignment.

2. Becoming all things to all people that they might be saved. (vv.20-23)

a) Learn to recognize and help remove obstacles to faith for those you would win to Christ.

b) Paul tried to become all things to all men so that Christ could save as many as possible.

3. Seek to finish well. (vv.24-27)

a) In a marathon it is not the fastest starter who wins but the fastest finisher.

b) The way to finish well is to be sure to live according to what you teach and believe.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application

- 1) What do you think are the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a Christian?
- 2) What did Paul mean by “become all things to all men” and why was it important to him?
- 3) Why did Paul think it important to finish well and not just start well?

Conclusion

We must be careful not to merely exercise our rights and privileges as followers of Christ, but remember that we must live as we believe and teach so that we do not disqualify ourselves.

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