

Striving For The Crown

The apostle Paul wrote on the necessity of striving for the victorious crown, the one that "never perishes" (1 Cor. 9:25). Like a respected coach in athletics, he urges the Corinthian brethren onto victory in Christ. What refreshing words of encouragement!

Now consider our soul in this matter. Would we take the attitude of our contemporaries in the world and submit to the idea that it is "too hard" being a Christian and therefore forfeit ever trying to live as one? This is a serious conclusion for anyone to make, yet many who do not turn to God's assuring Word do not understand the destiny of such a decision.

First of all, if God knew that it would be too hard for people to be a child of God, it would be an injustice on His part to have laid down the principles and commands in the New Testament. Instead, He states:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13).

Rather than focusing on the "never win" attitude of the world, we should be girded with the strengthening and encouraging words of the apostle! It is with this positive and godly attitude that we can run in such a way to obtain the imperishable crown (9:24-25).

Will you strive for the crown or give up your soul?

- Author Unknown (Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -

What A Good Ship

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale once told of encountering a hurricane while on a cruise in the Atlantic. After the captain managed to sail around the danger, he and Dr. Peale were visiting with one another.

The captain said he had always lived by a simple philosophy namely that if the sea is smooth, it will get rough; and if it is rough, it will get smooth. He added something worth remembering: "But with a good ship," the captain said, "you can always ride it out."

Our ship is our faith in Christ. With a good ship, you can always ride it out. Life is unpredictable. God is with us. Not a hair on your head will perish.

- King Duncan, *Stay Alive All Your Life*, Cited by Steve Lambert -
(via *The Encourager*, Southside Church of Christ, Killeen, TX)



This
HOPE
is a strong and trustworthy
ANCHOR
for our souls. HEBREWS 6:19, 21

It's never too late to learn, but we often learn that too late!

News & Notes

WOMEN'S MEETING: A brief meeting **this morning** following the worship service; this concerns our Ladies Work Day. Gather at the front of the auditorium.

UP FRONT: Tonight - Bible drills each 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5:15 p.m. for the kids and teens. Bible questions submitted by adults will be considered **each 3rd Sunday at 5:15 p.m.**

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate in making small stuffed bears for sick and needy kids.

MEN'S ENRICHMENT BIBLE CLASS: Discontinued Tuesday evenings until further notice while our building renovations are ongoing.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Dec. 14th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana, OH Church of Christ. Sign-up sheet on the desk.

LADIES WORKDAY: Next Saturday, Dec. 14th, 9:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Building. This to assemble goodie baskets for our shut-ins. A sign-up sheet is on the desk to indicate what items you can contribute, also please bring some fruit. All ladies are invited to participate in this activity.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL & VISIT: Next Saturday, Dec. 14th at 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Due to upcoming major renovations of our building, **we need to get this done, please make an appointment ASAP with Docie Moore;** your cooperation will be appreciated.

PANTRY: Peanut butter and jelly.

PIZZA PARTY: An after Christmas/New Year's pizza party will be held **Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** at the Fellowship Building. All are invited. **R.S.V.P. Dean & Sandy Spencer by Dec. 29th.** Money donations accepted to help defray the cost.

SICK & SHUT-IN: BEAVER MEDICAL CENTER: Carol Stillwell. **AT HOME:** Becky McKitrick, Emma Rine, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Mary Jane Bowers. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

POSITIVE PROHIBITIONS

AVOID those things which have a tendency in the wrong direction, i.e. "the appearance of evil." (1Thess. 5:22).

AVOID those things wherein our companionship is corrupted in morals. (1 Cor. 15:33).

AVOID that which may cause others to stumble. (Matt. 18:6).

REFRAIN from those things which will weaken us spiritually or create an inordinate fleshly appetite (Rom. 13:14).

REFRAIN from those things which will weaken our influence. (1 Pet. 2:11, 12).

AVOID those things which would be weakening to the physical body (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

AVOID those activities which would make us unprofitable stewards of God. (1 Cor. 4:2).

AVOID those things which destroy one's identity as a Christian, causing one to be regarded as of the world. (Rom. 12:2).