

FIGURES IN TIMOTHY #2 - THE ATHLETE

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-5

Paul used several athletic or sporting terms, to call to mind the Olympic Games. Christians are in the race. The starting gun is the New Birth and finish line at Christ's Judgement Seat.

I. THE TRAINING OF THE CHRISTIAN ATHLETE

- A. The Greek Athletes - required to spend 1 year training
 - 1. The same today: Baseball, Track, Boxing, Etc.
 - 2. They lived separated/regulated/disciplined lives
- B. The Christian Athlete must also train to win the race
 - 1. Rigid Calisthenics: Attendance/Giving/Witnessing
 - 2. Separated Living: Not of the world JOHN 17:15
 - 3. Strict Diet: Water/Bread/Milk/Meat HEB. 5:11-14

II. THE RULES OF THE CHRISTIAN ATHLETE

- A. All sporting events have rules (need the rulebook!)
- B. The Christian rule book is the Bible - HOW TO RUN!
 - 1. To begin - JOHN 3:7
 - 2. To continue - ACTS 2:38
 - 3. To pull ahead - JOHN 14:15
 - 4. To run lawfully - 2 PET. 1:5-7
 - 5. To run successfully - EPH. 3:21
- C. Put off extra weights (Arrogance/Pride/Boasting)

III. THE RACE OF THE CHRISTIAN ATHLETE

- A. Keep on running! Exhaustion/Obstacles/Competitors
 - 1. Asahel pursued after Abner 2 SAM. 2:19
 - 2. Keep your eyes on Jesus HEB. 12:2
- B. Paul experienced it 2 COR. 4:8-18

IV. THE FINISH OF THE CHRISTIAN ATHLETE

- A. Goal of all athletes (9 innings / 10 rounds / finish!)
 - 1. Paul in prison had run his race 2 TIM. 4:6-8
 - 2. He was passing the torch to the next generation
- B. To the SAINT OF GOD - Death is the finish line
- C. After Death: Rest and Resurrection 2 COR. 5:8
- D. On the Podium: Crowns and Rewards REV. 22:12

CONCLUSION: Have you heard the starter's pistol? Are you Saved? How are you running the race? Are you faithful?