



The Amazing Christian Race of Grace

(Sermon by Ray Reynolds 4-19-09)

Text: **Hebrews 12:1-3**

Introduction: The Bible often uses metaphors to help us better understand the realities of the Christian life. In our text, the Christian life is compared to a race. The Apostle Paul said, "*run that you may obtain*" your reward (**I Corinthians 9:24**). Are you ready to run? Let's study together to see what we need to succeed in this amazing Christian race. . . .

Discussion:

I. The Motivation to Enter the Race

"We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith mean." (v.1)

Hebrews 13:24, 11:37

II. The Determination for the Race

"So let us run the race that is before us and never give up." (v.1)

II Timothy 4:7

III. The Preparation for the Race

"We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back." (v.1)

Galatians 5:7

IV. The Concentration During the Race

"Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect." (v.2)

Philippians 4:13

V. The Illustration for the Race

"He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before Him." (v.2)

John 15:11

VI. The Compensation for the Race

"And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne." (v.2)

Acts 8:54-60

VII. The Inspiration for the Race

"Think about Jesus' example. He held on while wicked people were doing evil things to him. So do not get tired and stop trying." (v.3)

II Timothy 4:6-8, Luke 23:26-46

Conclusion: This Christian race is long and it's tiring and it's definitely not easy. However, in the end there is a terrific reward waiting for those who remain steady and focused. Are you ready to run?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Race"