



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Three: Training For The Prize

Choosing The Right Goal & Striving For The Mark

Morning Sermon by Ray Reynolds (August 12, 2012)

Introduction: Paul urges us to be focused on our eternal prize (**I Corinthians 9:24, Philippians 3:14**) and that our primary goal is to get to heaven (**II Timothy 4:6-8**). In this series of lessons, we are considering what it will take to train for the prize. The first step was finding the right trainer. The second step was selecting the right team. The third step is setting the right goal. The summer Olympics include archery, which takes skill and patience. In **I Peter 3:13-4:2** the apostle wants us to consider some things we could learn about setting the right goals and striving to hit the mark.....

Discussion:

I. When We Aim For Christ We Are Going to Suffer

I Peter 3:13-14, II Timothy 3:12, Revelation 2:10, Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 1:30

II. When We Aim For Christ We Are People of Hope

I Peter 3:15-17, James 1:2, Ephesians 4:15, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16

III. When We Aim For Christ We Are Dead to Sin

**I Peter 3:18-22, II Timothy 1:7, John 3:3, Matthew 24:37, Luke 17:26,
II Peter 2:5, Hebrews 11:7, Genesis 6, Mark 10:32-45, Luke 12:50 ,
Romans 6:2-5, Romans 8, Acts 2:38-39**

IV. When We Aim For Christ We Are Alive in the Spirit

**I Peter 4:1-2, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:4, Titus 3:4-7 Ephesians 4:30,
Mark 16:15-16, Romans 8:1, Romans 12:1-2**

Conclusion: The invitation from Jesus is still open: "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*" (**Matthew 11:28-30**) What are your goals? Do you want to go to heaven? Are you ready to join the Lord's team? Are you ready to come to run the race? Are you ready to lay your burdens down at the Lord's feet? Come to Jesus!!!

WORD OF THE DAY = "TRAINING"