

Running the Race (Ch. 12)

You are in a Race (vv. 1-4)

Verse	Teaching
Ecc. 9:11	Results are not always predictable.
Acts 20:24	Worth more than life.
1 Co. 9:24	Need to run so as to win.
1 Co. 9:25-27	Winning requires discipline and training.
1 Co. 9:27; Gal. 2:2	Compete for the prize.
Gal. 5:7	Can get off (and back on) course.

How to Finish the Race Well

1. Get rid of anything that hinders. (v. 1)
2. Get rid of the sin that entangles. (v. 1)
3. Run the course set by God. (v. 1; see also John 21:20-23)
4. Consider the race of Jesus. (vv. 2-3)
5. Count your Blessings! (v. 4)

Would you run the Boston Marathon while carrying a flat-screen TV?

God's Discipline (vv. 5-11)

Hardship is Discipline (vv. 5-7a)

God treats us as Sons (vv. 7b-11)

Comparison of Earthly Fathers to God (vv. 9-11):

ALL hardship, whether directly related to our spiritual walk or not, is God's way of shaping us for His

Verse	Human Fathers	Heavenly Father
9	Discipline Us	
	We Respect/Submit to Them	
10	Little While	Lifetime
	Their Idea of Best	Perfect Knowledge of Good
	Goal (Imp.) = Maturity	Goal = Holiness
11	Not Pleasant, but Painful	
		Results in Righteousness & Peace
	Benefits Those Trained by it	

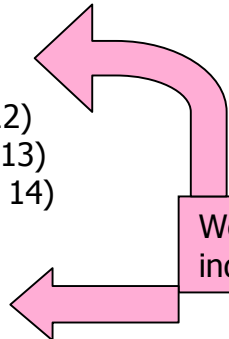
Our Discipline (vv. 12-17)

Self-Directed (vv. 12-14)

1. Strengthen yourself (v. 12)
2. Set the Right Course (v. 13)
3. Live at Peace with All (v. 14)
4. Be Holy (v. 14)

Other-Directed (vv. 15-17)

1. Keep Others from Missing God's Grace (v. 15; see Gal. 5:4)
2. Keep a Root of Bitterness from Sprouting (v. 15)
3. Prevent Immorality (v. 16)
4. Prevent Godlessness (vv. 16-17)



We run the race both as individuals and teams.

"Godlessness" here is indicated when we put temporal desires ahead of God's eternal

Our Motivation (vv. 18-29)

We are in a Better Place than the Saints Before us (vv. 18-29)

Sinai	Zion
Physical	Heavenly
Dark, Gloomy	Light, Joyful
Terrifying	Inviting

Warning from God (vv. 25-29)

- Jesus is Greater than Moses (v. 25)
- A Greater Judgment is Coming (vv. 26-27)
- God is a Consuming Fire (v. 29; See 1 Co. 3:13, 2 Pet. 3:12, Jude 22-23)

So be Thankful and Worship God (v. 28)