**R1019 Rumination for August 04, 2024**

The **T**heme: **The Olympics in Scripture.** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *They which* ***R****un in a race* ***R****un all, but one* ***R****eceiveth the prize?* I Cor. 9:24

The **T**hots:

Intro. This year the Olympics is held in Paris, France from Fri, Jul 26 – Sun, Aug 11, 2024. However, its opening ceremony was marred by an alleged blasphemous parody of Da Vincci’s picture of the Last Supper in a boat scene along the Seine River which drew flaks and a volumous protest from the Christian world.

**A**re there **A**llusions to the **A**ncient **A**then Games (the **O**rigin of the **O**lympics) in yesteryears in Scripture?

Bible Commentators have referred the following Bible texts to the **G**recian **G**ames in New Testament days:-

1. **I Cor. 9:24-27; II Tim. 2:5 – Fighting the Fight.**
2. A **R**eference to a **R**ace in the biennial Games near Corinth. **I Cor.** **9:24**-27
3. Christian Living is likened to **R**unning in a **R**ace – *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all…*
4. **O**nly **O**ne person can win the **R**eward – *they which* ***R****un in a* ***R****ace* ***R****un all, but one* ***R****eceiveth the prize?*
5. As for the **O**thers**,** *So* ***R****un, that ye may* ***O****btain.*
6. The **R**equirements or **R**ules in order to **R**un. I Cor. 9:25
7. **M**aster your **F**ield – *Every man that* *striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.* 9:25a
8. **M**ind the **F**ixed **R**ules *– if a man also strive for masteries,*

 *yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.* **Cf. II Tim. 2:5**

1. **M**aintain your **F**ight – *so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:* I Cor. 9:26
2. **M**ake it to the **F**inish – *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:* 9:27a
3. By no **M**eans be a **F**ailure - *lest that by any means, when I have preached to others,*

 *I myself should be a castaway [disqualified]* 9:27b

1. **Heb. 12:1, 2 – Running the Race.**
2. **S**tudy the **M**ultitudes of Witnesses who had **R**un the **R**ace Previously. Heb. 12:1a

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses,*

1. They were Witnesses **M**arked by their **F**aith in God. Cf. Ch. 11
2. They were **F**aithful **W**itnesses of God as evidenced by their **W**orks.

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Heb. 11:2

*For by it the elders obtained a good report.*

1. **L**et us **F**ollow their **F**aith: 12:1, 2
2. Their **M**ake-up:
* Their **D**ecision to **D**o well: ***L****et us lay aside every weight*
* Their **D**iscipline to **D**iscard any… *sin which* ***D****oth so easily beset us.*
1. Their **M**ode or **M**anner: ***L****et us run with patience the race that is set before us,* 12:1c
2. Their **M**odel: ***L****ooking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith;* 12:2a
3. **S**et your **M**ind on Him:

***C****onsider Him that endured such* ***C****ontradiction of sinners against Himself* 12:3a

 ***L****est ye be wearied and faint in your minds.* 12:3b

1. His **E**nd before Him: W*ho for the joy that was set before Him* 12:2b
2. His **E**ndurance in the Process: *endured the cross, despising the shame,* 12:2c
3. His **E**nthronement at the **E**nd: *and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* !2:2d
4. **Phil. 3:13-14 -Paul’s Aim and Ambition in Athletics.**
5. Paul’s **At**tainment in the **P**ast – *Not as though I had already Attained, either were Already perfect.* 3:12a
6. Paul **A**ttitude towards the **P**resent – *Brethren, I count not myself to have Apprehended* 3:13a

*but I follow After, if that I may Apprehend that for which also I am Apprehended of Christ Jesus.* 3:12b

1. Paul’s **A**im in the **P**rocess: *…this one thing I do, forgetting those things which Are behind,* 3:13b
2. Paul’s **A**mbition for the **P**rospective Future: *reaching forth unto those things which Are before,* 3:13c
3. Paul’s **A**ct in **P**ursuit of the **P**rize – The **A**mbition and Aim of every **A**thlete in the **A**then Games!
* *I* ***P****ress toward the mark for the* ***P****rize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus* 3:14
1. **II Tim. 4:6-8 – Fighting a Good Fight to the Finish!** II Tim.
2. Paul’s **R**eadiness to **D**epart from this life – He was **R**eady to offer himself as a sacrifice! 4:6

*I am now ready to be offered…the time of my Departure is at hand. [****D****eparture* = an euphemism for **D**eath]

1. Paul had **D**ischarged his **R**esponsibilities in Life, viz.
2. He was **F**aithful to the **F**inish – 4:6a *I am now ready to be offered*
3. He had ***F****ought a good* ***F****ight* – 4:7a Cf. *Fight the good fight of the faith* I Tim. 6: 12
4. He had ***F****inished his Course* – 4:7b Cf. *if only I may finish my course* Acts 20:24
5. He had *Kept the* ***F****aith.* – 4:7c Cf. - *guard the deposit entrusted to you* 1 Tim. 6:20
6. Paul would **R**eceive His **R**eward –

*A crown of* ***R****ighteousness, which the Lord, the* ***R****ighteous judge, shall give me at that day.* 4:8a

1. So Would the **R**est who Look for His **R**eturn – *all them also that love His appearing* 4:8b
* Are you **R**eady to **R**un the **R**ace to the Finish in this Spiritual Olympic Athletic **R**ace?
* One **R**equirement is to Observe the Lord’s Supper **R**egularly as He Commanded until He **R**eturns!

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ﻿ye do shew the Lord’s death ﻿till He come* I Cor. 11:28*.*

**Points To Ponder: *R****un the* ***R****ace by all Means but also keep in* ***R****everence His* ***R****emembrance Feast* ***R****egularly.*