

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Steve & Debbie Poston | Mexico



- PRAISE**
- MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! The goal of building a new home for the orphanage “Casa Hogar Puro Corazon” has been accomplished. The Dedication service was held on February 3rd.
 - Pray for oppurtunities to teach and preach to the church family in San Juan.
- PRAY**
- Pray for the orphanage that God continues to use it to change the lives of these kids and help them come to a saving knowledge of Christ
 - Pray for seeds planted recently at a local Juvenile Detention Facility. Steve and Debbie recently had an oppurtunity with the Gideons to share the Gospel to over 30 teens and workers.

THE
FIGHT
Winning The Battles That Matter Most

Handout: 04/14/24
Study Date: 04/21/24

Fight For Your Focus

Paul has shifted his metaphor a bit to make himself the focus. He has been describing what an athlete must do to win a race, including the exercise of great self-control. The training programs for athletes in Paul's day included commitments to abstain from specific food, drink, and sensual experiences in order to be ready to compete at the highest level. In the previous verse, Paul pointed out they did all of this to win a wreath that would quickly die. Paul sees himself as competing to win souls for Christ and to receive an eternal recognition for that effort. Such a "crown" would be far more valuable.

Now Paul turns the spotlight on his own training for this prize. He insists that he does not run aimlessly. His work is very intentional. Then he includes another common competition of the day, boxing. Paul writes that he does not train so that he can beat up the air. Boxers often use "shadow boxing" as a training tool, where they duck and strike against an imagined opponent. That's a training tool, however, not the end goal of one's training. Paul plans to win the fight, to land some serious blows on his opponent. He is disciplining himself for actual competition.

Paul's commitment to setting aside his freedoms and rights wasn't mere exercise. He is competing for recognition from Christ for how well he fought to win people to trust in Jesus. He is living this way intentionally. This is in keeping with the main theme of his metaphor: that Christians should be committed to faith as is a dedicated athlete to their sport.

Resource: bibleref.org

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KEY VERSE

I Corinthians 9:26 (NKJV)

“Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 3:13-14; I John 1:9

Let Go Of Your Past

1. Philippians 3:13 instructs us to *“forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things ahead”* How successful are YOU at this?
2. According to I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.”* Is there sin that YOU have not forgiven yourself for?

Tuesday: I Corinthians 9:24; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:23

Run To Win The Prize

3. I Corinthians 9:24 defines our lives as a *“race”* in which we are to *“run to receive the prize.”* What are our most difficult challenges in running it?
4. II Corinthians 5:10 speaks of the *“judgement seat of Christ.”* What practices can we adopt now to receive the blessings of Matthew 25:23?

Wednesday: I Corinthians 9:25; Romans 12:1; Proverbs 13:4

Go All In

5. Are YOU giving yourself as a *“living sacrifice”* as told in Romans 12:1?
6. I Corinthians 9:25 speaks of those who seek to obtain a *“perishable crown”* versus one that is *“imperishable.”* Define the difference between the two!

Thursday: I Corinthians 9:26; Ephesians 5:15-17; Proverbs 29:18

Aim To Do God’s Will

7. I Corinthians 9:26 tells us to run *“not with uncertainty,”* not to run *“as one who beats the air.”* What is this saying about our commitment to our faith?
8. We are told: *“walk circumspectly, not as fools”* according to Ephesians 5:15 and *“understand what the will of the Lord is”* in verse 17. Do YOU?
9. What promise is made to those who *“keepeth the law”* in Proverbs 29:18?

Friday: I Corinthians 9:27; II Timothy 2:21; Galatians 5:16

Overcome Fatal Attractions

10. I Corinthians 9:27 calls us to *“discipline our bodies and bring them into subjection.”* What then does it go on to tell us about our witness?
11. Galatians 5:16 informs us to *“walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* Are you practicing this in EVERY relationship?