

**Growth Group Discussion Questions
For Our Growth Group- On Line Meetings**

“Why Am I Here?”- Part 6

“...To Run Your Race For Him”

Week of October 11th, 2020

Summary- Why are you here? Our final reason we’ll address in this series is... “To Run Your Race For Him.” What will stop you from following Jesus? What sidelines you at time from representing Jesus better in your daily experience? It’s easy to get mad at other people and especially irreligious people who seem to get away with not loving God and still prospering in their lives. Asaph in Psa. 73 had that same response! But everything changed for him when he returned to seeking God instead of being the critic of the world around him. In the final analysis, following Jesus is a choice. May we choose to run the race of faith with Jesus and His mission to love and reach lost people every day we have left on planet earth!!

1. What was most memorable to you from the Sunday message on “Why AM I Here?” To Run Your Race For Him”? (...Your race of faith for your lifetime)

2. In Psalm 73, written 3,000 years ago, the writer & godly man Asaph, expresses his frustration with God seemingly allowing the unbelieving world to go on living godless lives and appearing to prosper anyway! Discuss the things below that frustrate or get you worked up about how life is being lived on earth right now:

- What are some ways Christians can become envious of unbelieving people?
- Read 1 John 5:12. And answer the question below:
1 John 5:12 “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
- a. What do we know that’s true that keeps our hearts soft and passionate & loving towards people who have not yet found Jesus?

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3. Paul the Apostle, talks about running the race of faith in a powerful Passage in 1 Cor. 9:25-27. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

1 Cor.9:25 “All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.”

- a. In verse 25, Paul gives us a dose of motivation for us to run our race of faith. Discuss what that is & how it compares to the discipline an athlete shows to his sport.
- b. Look at verse 26. Discuss reasons why it is important to live your life of faith in a public and active way rather than just in private?
- c. Look at verse 27. Paul says he disciplines his body (its appetites & self-centeredness) like an athlete disciplines his body to win his event. What are some things we know we should do as Jesus Followers that it takes discipline for us to actually do!
- d. Considering verse 27, why should we be concerned that our behavior might cause us to be disqualified or cause us to lose God’s blessing on our lives?

4. During the pandemic it has become easy for us to be Self-focused. This self-focus can destroy our joy and make us bitter and not better. Meanwhile we still have a job to do, that is: to represent Jesus and spread His good news. Look at Heb. 12:1-3 and discuss the secret to Jesus' success in not quitting and finishing His race.

Heb. 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up

- a. In verse 1, what does it mean to strip off every weight that slows us down? What are some of those weights that slow us down in our race to live for Jesus?

- b. In verses 2 & 3, we get the answer to running our race of faith and not quitting. Discuss what that is.

- c. What kept Jesus going through all the resistance He faced from ungodly people? Who did Jesus run his race for?

- d. What are ways that Jesus ran His race on earth, for you and me?