

# **Finishing Well in Relationship**

**Part One: The Race, The Relationship**

My life's purpose is to know Christ—His heart, His power, and His suffering—and to make Him known by proclaiming His Kingdom with courage, humility, and unwavering faith.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Tim. 4:7)

# A Race In Life

## 1. The Success Race

- Pursuing career achievements, recognition, financial security
- Measuring life by accomplishments and status

## 2. The Provision Race

- Working hard to provide for family, build stability, leave something behind

## 3. The Family/Legacy Race

- Investing in marriage, children, and grandchildren
- Wanting to leave a lasting legacy

# A Race In Life

## 4. The Approval Race

- Wanting respect, influence, or affirmation from others
- Being known as a “good man” or successful person

## 5. The Comfort Race

- Seeking ease, security, enjoyment, and avoiding hardship
- Especially tempting later in life

## 6. The Religious Activity Race

- Doing church work, serving, staying busy spiritually

**What Might Be a Race in Your Life?**

# What About The Race?

## What is The Prize?

*“I believe in one God, creator of the universe, that he governs the world by his providence, that he ought to be worshiped, that the most acceptable service we can render to him is doing good to his other children, that the soul of man is immortal and will be treated with justice in another life concerning its conduct in this life.”*

# What About The Race?

## What is The Prize?

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Phil. 3:7-11)

*“Most who read these pages, I suspect will not be greatly tempted to boast about their Jewish ancestry and ancient rights of race and religious heritage. But we may be tempted to brag about still less important things: our wealth, our status, our education, our emotional stability, our families, our political or business successes, our denominational alignments, or even about which version of the Bible we use. Be careful of people like that. They tend to regard everyone who is outside their little group as somehow inferior. Somewhere along the way they inadvertently or even intentionally and maliciously imagine that faith in Christ Jesus and delight in him is a little less important than their personal accomplishments.” – D.A. Carson*

*“Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because He shows us both God and our own wretchedness.” – Blaise Pascal*

# **How Do You Enter the Race? How Do You Complete It?**

And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. (Phil. 3:9)

# **How Do You Enter the Race? How Do You Complete It?**

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:6)

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12b-13)

# In the Race And At Rest

For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound in any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:11-13)

# In the Race And At Rest

“When Christ gives you soul-rest, there is rest for your conscience because He removes its sin-caused guilt. His soul-rest also includes rest for your mind because He reveals Himself as the truth of God. He ministers rest for your heart since it no longer has to frantically search for a haven of rest. There is rest in Him for your fears since your soul is in His loving, omnipotent hands for all eternity. Christ also provides rest for your sense of purpose now that you have Him to worship, love, and serve.” – Donald Whitney

# Part Two: The Race and Relationships