

The Fruit of Temperance



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- **Review – “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:22-23**
- **We are looking at the traits.**
- **Lesson #2 – “The Fruit of Love”**
- **Lesson #3 – “The Fruit of Joy”**
- **Lesson #4 – “The Fruit of Peace”**
- **Lesson #5 – “The Fruit of Longsuffering”**
- **Lesson #6 – “The Fruit of Gentleness”**
- **Lesson #7 – “The Fruit of Goodness”**
- **Lesson #8 – The Fruit of Faithfulness”**
- **Lesson #9 - “The Fruit of Meekness”**

The Fruit of Temperance – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- **Temperance: to master and control the body or the flesh with all of its lusts.**
 - **Paul was fond of athletic images and used them often in his letters.**
 - **An athlete must be disciplined if he is to win the prize.**
 - **The Christian does not run the race in order to get to heaven.**
 - **In order to give up his rights and have the joy of winning lost souls, Paul had to discipline himself.**
 - **The passage is one of the great challenges of Scripture, a challenge that every minister and believer should memorize and keep before their minds.**
1. **The minister or believer enters the Christian race, and he enters to win (v. 24).**
 - **The point is this: the minister and layman alike must run as diligently as the runner at the Olympic Games (Gal. 5:7; Phil. 2:16; 3:14; Heb. 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:7-8).**
 2. **The minister or believer strenuously disciplines and controls himself (v. 25).**
 - **The minister or believer is to do no less.**
- A. The minister or believer controls his body (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).**

- B. The minister or believer controls his mind and thoughts (Rom. 8:5-7; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Matt. 5:28).
 - C. The minister or believer controls his spirit (Gal. 5:23).
 - D. The minister or believer works out consistently in ministry and service to others (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 6:7; Heb. 12:28).
3. The minister or believer runs to obtain an incorruptible, eternal crown (v. 25).
- Their fame and crown were the same as with our athletes: they both passed ever so quickly (2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 3:11; Rev. 4:10).
4. The minister or believer runs and fights with certainty and without distraction (v. 26).
- Note the second example. He is a boxer (2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:12; 1 Tim. 1:8; 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:4).
5. The minister or believer is not to be controlled by his body; he is to control his body (v. 27).
- The minister or believer masters his own body (Luke 9:23; 21:34; Rom. 6:12; 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:12).
6. The minister or believer guards against disqualification (v. 27).
- A. Paul was concerned that his life measured up to his preaching.
- Paul knew the utter necessity to live what he preached.
 - Paul knew that the Lord just would not allow false profession from His ministers (Rom. 2:21-24; Matt. 7:21; Mark 7:6; Titus 7:6).
- B. The judgment or chastisement feared by Paul was that of being disqualified.
- The word “disqualified” means reprobate, rejected, castaway, disapproved, unfit, failing to stand the test.
 - First, Paul definitely pictured himself in a life-long struggle for salvation (Rom. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:27; 1 Cor. 13:5-6; 2 Tim. 2:8).
 - Second, Paul pictured himself as having to struggle against sin throughout life.

- Third, Paul was perfectly assured of his salvation; he was perfectly assured that he would run the race and run it well (Rom. 8:38-39; 2 Tim. 1:12; Rom. 8:29; 2Th 3:3; 1 Pet 1:5; Jude 24; Rev. 3:10).
- Fourth, Paul was convinced that only those who walked in the Spirit and were committed to a deadly struggle against sin were saved.
- Fifth, Paul was not perfect, and he confessed the fact, confessing that he was far from perfect (Phil. 3:12-14).
- The believer who is assured of his salvation is constantly aware that the proof of his salvation is fruit or good works (Matt. 7:16-17; Matt. 13:8; John 15:2, 5; James 2:17, 20, 24).