The Prize

Tony Mauck · 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

INTRODUCTION

- I want to begin this morning by talking about a word that is generally held in high regard by everybody. That word is the word prize.
- Kids like hamburgers, cheeseburgers, French fries, and their little drink of soda, but they're interested foremost in the prize.

1 Running for the Prize

1 Corinthians 9:24–27; 2 Timothy 4:7–8; Philippians 3:14

- Do you not know that those who run in a race all run? But only one receives the prize. Run in such a way that you might win.
- You can't just run any way you like. You can't make up your own rules.
- The great thing about running in this race and receiving God's prize is that it's not reserved for a single runner.
- I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Paradise and Reward

Revelation 2:7; Matthew 5:11–12; Hebrews 10:36

- To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.
- Rejoice and be glad. For your reward in heaven is great.
- He considered the reproach of Christ to be greater riches than all the riches in Egypt.
- Whatever God bestows on us, it will be grand. It will be wonderful because he is wonderful.

3 Home and Rest

2 Corinthians 5:8–9; Hebrews 4:1; Hebrews 4:11

- Home is a place of stability and security and comfort. And that image is conveyed to us in terms of the prize.
- Paul said to be absent from the body is what? To be at home with the Lord.
- Blessed are those who die in the Lord. They shall have rest from all their labors, and their works do follow them.
- Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.

4 Properly Estimate the Value of the Prize

Psalm 119:127; Psalm 119:162; Psalm 19:10

- You're not going to respond appropriately to God's instruction and this hope unless you properly estimate the value of the prize.
- One moment will exceed all of everything that we have had here. What happens is we lose sight of the value of the prize.
- If we did have the right value placed upon the prize in our minds, we would make better decisions in the midst of temptation.
- Whatever it is that keeps you from doing right. Put it on that line. The prize is better than that.
- Therefore I love thy commandments above gold. Yes, above fine gold.
- If we properly value the prize, we would have more submission. And fewer attempts to look for loopholes in the Word of God.

5 Keep the Prize in View

2 Corinthians 9:15

- We've got to keep the prize in view.
- It's why we live. It is why we worship and why we sacrifice.
- The prize is why we should murmur and grumble less and meditate, work and pray more.
- And the prize is why we plead with the lost while there's time and opportunity.
- We need to instill in our kids a proper estimate of the prize. And instill it within ourselves.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you been baptized in likeness of his death, his burial, and his resurrection, rising to walk in newness of life so that if you were called before the judgment seat of God today, you would be ready to embrace the prize.

MY NOTES