*Tuesday, January 3, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. (25) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. (KJV)

The word strive refers to fight as well as competing for a prize. Now when watching races we see where many begin the race with aspirations of receiving a prize, but in the end only one will receive it. We are fighting and competing for an eternal prize which is awarded to one, that being those that are truly running in the place that our Lord chose for them to run in, His one body of believers.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (27) But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (KJV)

The devil does not have the power to pull you out of the race; rather the devil will try to entice you to run a different course based on a carnal temporal prize and not the eternal one that you started your pursuit of. Do you know for sure that you are running in the right direction for the right motive, or has your love for the Lord cooled off a bit and you are just coasting?

Philippians 3:10-12 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (11) If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (12) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Paul knew what direction he was headed in because he chose to be led by the Spirit and not the flesh. How about that statement ‘if by any means’ which means that he had an attitude that nothing was going to stop or impede his forward progress.

Philippians 3:13-15 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (15) Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (KJV)

That word ‘press’ refers again to one who runs swiftly in a race toward the prize. In order to be perfect or mature in your walk with the Lord you will need this same attitude and mindset if you are going to be crowned as well. Oh, and if you keep looking behind while you are running this race, well you will probably end up in the ditch with all the other people who are blinded by hindsight. Remember, we are supposed to be the head and not the tail, so get your tail moving forward.