

Seven Portraits of an Enduring Leader III

“An Athlete”

There are many dynamics to multidimensional leaders.

There are leadership relationships.

You cannot influence people you can't access.

There is leadership stewardship.

We are stewards of everything, owners of nothing.

There is leadership.

He leads us so that we can teach others.

There must be an athletic mentality in every leader.

KJV 2 Timothy 2:5 And if a man also **strive** for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Strive:

g0118. ἀθλέω athleō; from ἄθλος athlos (a contest in the public lists); to contend in the competitive games: — strive.

AV (2) - strive 2;

to engage in a contest, contend in public games, contend for a prize, to endure, suffer

NKJV 2 Timothy 2:5 And also if anyone **competes in athletics**, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

MSG 2 Timothy 2:5 **An athlete** who refuses to play by the rules will never get anywhere

I

NLT 1 Corinthians 9:24 Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? **So run to win!** ²⁵ **All athletes** are **disciplined** in their

training.²⁶ They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.²⁷ **So I run with purpose** in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. 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.

Run to win! Vs. 24

Run with **discipline**. Vs. 25

Run with purpose. Vs. 27

Discipline your **body**. Vs. 27b

II

NLT Ecclesiastes 9:11 I have observed something else under the sun. **The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle.** The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. **It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time.**¹² People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a trap, people are caught by sudden tragedy.

Opportunity + Preparation = Success

In life, not everyone is prepared.

In life, not everyone has **access** to preparation.

In life, not everyone has access to opportunity.

In life, not everyone is prepared when an opportunity **comes**.

The sovereign plan of God is always at work behind the scenes.

As a runner, athletes Run!

III

Athletes stay within the **rules**.

As an athlete, don't compare.

As an athlete, don't complain.

Training and competing is hard work.

NLT 2 Corinthians 10:12 Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant! ¹³ We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what **has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you.**

Athletes must know their assignments.

Athletes must know their boundaries.

Athletes must know their course.

Athletes must stay on the course!

Rhema Christian Center

Bishop La Fayette Scales

Saturday & Sunday, October 2 & 3, 2021 (in-person service)

9:30 a.m.