

**FINISHING THE RACE**  
**#SermonChristianRace**  
**Skills For Living With Purpose - Part 8**  
**Dr. Mark Jackson, March 3, 2019**

**P.U.R.P.O.S.E.**

**PRIORITIZE** the values that matter most.  
**UNDERSTAND** your God given SHAPE.  
**RESOLVE** to fulfill God's purpose.  
**PRAYERFULLY** establish a life mission.  
**ORGANIZE** my time around my purpose.  
**STRENGTHEN** relationships that support my purpose.  
**ENDURE** difficulties by focusing on God's purpose.

**Acts 20:24** I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me... (NIV)

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (NIV)

**FIVE RULES FOR FINISHING THE RACE**

**1. REMOVE ALL DISTRACTIONS**

**Hebrews 12:1** ...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. (NLT)

**Philippians 3:13b-14a**...Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,  
<sup>14</sup> I strain to reach the end of the race... (LB)

**2. REMEMBER THE REASON AND REWARD**

**2 Corinthians 4:1** God, in his mercy, gave us this work to do. So we don't give up. (ICB)

**1 Corinthians 9:25-26** To win the contest you must deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes to all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears.  
<sup>26</sup> So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step... (LB)

**2 Corinthians 4:18** For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen

lasts forever. (TEV)

### 3. RENEW MYSELF DAILY

**2 Corinthians 4:16** For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. (TEV)

**Psalms 94:19** Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer. (LB)

### 4. RESIST DISCOURAGEMENT

**Galatians 6:9** And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up. (LB)

**Habakkuk 2:3** These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day! (LB)

### 5. RELY ON CHRIST

**Colossians 1:29** This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me. (LB)

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