

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

December 2, 2017

## Running out the Clock

There is a vast difference between finishing your course and just running out the clock. The only thing necessary for you to do to run out the clock ...is nothing. Just sit down. Just wait. Soon enough your time will expire and your life in this world will be over. Maybe you (as I am) are looking for the second coming of Christ and the rapture. Well don't worry. That day will come. Hopefully sooner than later, but it will certainly come. What do we need to do to see it come? Absolutely nothing! Just wait long enough and it will happen. On the other hand, maybe we need to consider that God's purpose for our life here is greater than just getting it over with.

Paul was given a course to run in the same day he was struck down on the road to Damascus. Jesus told him, *"I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."* Acts 26:16-18. This is the reason Jesus apprehended Paul. This was his course to run. He later wrote, *"I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended*

*of Christ Jesus.*” Philippians 3:12. He would spend his life pressing *“toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 3:14. He was running the course Christ had given him to finish.

“Running the race” is not just living out our lives. Paul expressed this when he said, *“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.”* I Corinthians 9:24. The prize to be obtained is the souls of lost humanity. We are running for the souls of men and women of every nation, race, and tribe. Satan has stacked the race with many runners. There are runners from every false religion. Ambition and vanity are in the race. Worldly pleasures, unclean lusts, and cares of this life are all running to claim the souls. There are even runners carrying a perverted gospel. Galatians 1:7. The odds of us claiming the soul for Christ seem overwhelming. Facing such overwhelming odds, many stay on the sidelines, seeking a guaranteed success before they join the race. There is really only one guarantee I can assure you of: If you do not get in the race, you are guaranteed to reach none. *“So run that you may obtain!”*

There is, however, the weapon of our warfare that turns the odds in this race upside down. This weapon is the simple gospel of Christ. It is the truth that the eternal Christ, by whom all things were made, became flesh *“...to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness.”* Daniel 9:24. He accomplished this by giving his life to *“sanctify the people with his own blood”* Hebrews 13:12 and *“take away our sin.”* I John 3:5. Jesus is the Christ! This GOSPEL OF CHRIST is the power of God unto

salvation to everyone that believes it, *Romans 1:16* but as Paul pointed out, they cannot believe it if they have never heard it. *Romans 10:14*.

Jesus did not say go into all the world and “do something” or “preach something.” He commanded us to go “*preach the gospel to every creature.*” *Mark 16:15*. I am afraid that many construe religious activity to be the fulfillment of the great commission. If the savior we proclaim did not “*save his people from their sins*” *Matthew 1:21*, we are guilty of just “preaching something” and not proclaiming the gospel of Christ. Remember, Jesus warned of those who “*...compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*” *Matthew 23:15*. It matters what message we carry to the world!

Over seven billion souls are waiting for God’s people to carry the gospel of Christ to them. It is your course to run. It is mine also. I do not know the manner in which God would use each of us, but none of us will ever know until we present our body to God for his purpose. *Romans 12:1*. The clock is still ticking. The time for each of us to run the race set before us is quickly passing. If we do not run the race, we will never finish our course. *II Timothy 4:7*. We will only run out the clock.