

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

I once watched a track relay race on television. It appeared that one team was blowing the field away. They were almost laughing at the other runners. But then something terrible happened. The third runner and the anchorman got out of sync, and they flubbed the exchange. The judge ruled it an illegal exchange, and this team was disqualified.

It makes a difference how we run the race, doesn't it? Well, it makes a difference how we live the Christian life, too. Just saying we know Christ as Savior and Lord does not mean we're free to live any old way we want to live. Listen to 1 Corinthians chapter 9, verses 24 through 27. “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 may win...everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way as not without aim. I box in such a way as not beating the air, but I buffet my body and I make it my slave, lest possibly after I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.”

The analogy is very clear. We need to first understand and live within God's guidelines for the Christian life. Then we need to exercise spiritual discipline and apply truth to our lives in such a way that we personally will not be disqualified. Our focus is on an eternal prize, and as we exercise this discipline and determination God will give us what we need to finish strong.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Time is running out and we're in the midst of the race. Pay attention to the rules. Stay on target, and by all means, run to win!