

On your Mark, Get Set, Go

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Andrew P: REAL. 3-5th Camp. Children's. Bulgaria. [also welcome Lasters hm]
- B. Slide6 Children at Risk - Cory Nickols/Destiny Rescue.
- C. Slide7 Mothers Day: *Story*: 2 women God blessed with Motherhood.
1. You know who started the Exodus? No, not Moses. No, not a man.
 2. And it's interesting that the new king/pharaoh of Egypt isn't even named, simply, *there was the new king over Egypt*. [oppressors don't deserve to be named]
 3. But 2 people are named. They were the 2 who *started the Exodus*. They become the *heroes* of the story. And they were *nobodies*. *Not royalty. Not rich. Not famous*. Just 2 *midwives*...that were *brave & courageous*. God gives their names (Shiphrah & Pu-ah *aka fair & splendid, or beautiful & fragrant*).
 - a) The *no named king of Egypt* commanded them to *kill* all *baby boys* birthed to the Hebrew women. *But they feared God & couldn't do it. Why have you done this? The Heb women pop em out so quick b4 we can even get there.*
 - b) These 2 women said... *No to Pharaoh. No to power. No to oppression. No to injustice. No to the killing of babies. So they could say Yes to God.*
 - c) *This is where courage begins. And because they feared God, He provided families for them.* (God rewarded them w/the gift of *Motherhood*) *She girds her hands with strength... She reaches out her hands to the needy.* Prov.31:17,20
 - d) *Moms*, thanks for your courage/bravery, saying *No* to other things & *yes* to God.

II. Slide8a Intro: On your Mark, Get Set, Go [ready/aim/fire. lights/camera/action]

A 3-command start when racing: *on your mark* (get on your lane/spot) *get set* (get to starting position) *go!* (take off)

- A. The 1st part of the chapter we talked about our *Salvation*. Now Our *Sanctification* (12-16) then Our *Glorification* (17-21).
1. First Paul had to deal with his *identity*. Which is...*stripping away what you are known for, and what's left is who you are*. [this takes self-reflection]

2. Once our **identity** is found *in Jesus*, we realize I'm loved/I don't have to perform. I'm *imago dei*. It's not about who your parents said you **were**, but who God says you **are**. It's grasping the value & worth God has placed on you.
 - a) In counseling we focus on *their broken sense of identity* not on *fixing the sin*. If we fix their sin of *drunkenness*, what if they just replace that w/another addiction, *i.e.* gambling. [showing them **Jesus**, not just as a *Savior*, but as their *ultimate Authority*]
 3. Slide8b Once we have *a new identity* (see vs.9) then we have a *new perspective, new motivation, new goal, new mind, a new example, & one day a new home, & a new body*.
- B. Is the the Christian life a **quick success**? No, just ask the Missionary or an older saint. Is life a **quick success**? No, just ask the Med student. The single mom juggling *a job, a child, & a few classes in college*. The Marathoner. *Better yet* ask the *Ultra Marathoner*.
1. Slide9 Ultra marathon = 544 miles. From 1983-1991 one was held in Australia, *The Westfield Sydney to Melbourne Ultramarathon*. In 1983, 150 top athletes from around the world, most under 30 years of age were competing.
 2. Then appearing out of the crowd was a **61-year-old potato farmer** wearing *overalls and rubber work boots* (gumboots) **Cliff Young**. Most thought he was *a spectator, however he came to run*. He also had this lil shuffle. The runners run for 18 hours & sleep 6. Cliff ran straight through, only stopping for *water and bathroom breaks*.
 3. On the last night of the race, to everyone's surprise, Cliff was not only still in the race, but he was in the lead. After 5 days, 15 hours, and 4 min's of *continuous running*, 61-year-old potato farmer **Cliff Young** not only completed the race but he **won**. [almost 10 hours ahead of the next runner]
 - a) Come to find out he gained his running endurance and style as a kid on the farm. They had 2000 head of sheep and he would have to round them up because they couldn't afford horses (during the depression), sometimes running for 2 days straight.
 - b) He told reports later, *he would just picture himself running after the sheep, trying to outrun a storm*.
 4. He also found out that the prize was \$10,000, which she distributed equally among the 5 runners that finished behind him, *keeping nothing for himself*.

5. The **Young Shuffle** has been adopted by some ultra-marathon runners because it expends less energy.

C. **But** you might think...I'm not the best Christian. I make mistakes. I fall down. I don't do **all** of life right. Actually, ***I do most of life wrong***. I'm slow...great...***just shuffle*** :) It's not as sprint, it's an ultra marathon.

III. Slide10a **OUR SANCTIFICATION (12-16)**

A. **A NEW PERSPECTIVE** (12a) *a holy dissatisfaction*

B. (nlt) *I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. [*If Paul didn't have it all figured out, then neither does any preacher today. And Neither do I, neither do you]*

1. **Perfection? Wait, I'm out!** - Many believers think God is producing *specimens of holiness* to put in His museum. **But** we are called to live our lives in such a way we produce a yearning for God *in the lives of others* not admiration for myself.

C. I believe our *sanctification/our going hard after God* is simpler than we make it...

1. Love God. Love your family. Love the person in front of you. Oh and love the creepy people.

2. Yes God *so loved the whole entire world*, but the way He showed it was through His Son Jesus *one on one* (woman at the well, mtg Nick at night, a creepy naked possessed man, a blind man, a rich young guy, a lady with a seeping wound).

3. We need to just show people who Jesus is by what we **do**, not just tell them what we **think**. People don't always need **more information** but instead they need **an example**.

4. Isn't life about figuring out who **I am** and who **God really is**?

a) **But** often, our **words** say we're one person (think *our social media*), **but** our **lives** say we're someone else.

b) **Jesus** is the only One who can let us know the **truth** about both.

D. Slide10b **A NEW MOTIVATION** (12b) *forward*

E. **Press On** - *keep on the chase, run after, pursue.*

1. The Philippians were near to *the famous Greek games* played on Corinth's **Isthmus**, the **Isthmian Games**.
2. In 1st part of this chapter, the start gun went off for Paul (told of his salvation). Paul's now on his 20th mile, of his 26 mile life Marathon.
 - a) Oh, he's tripped along the way, **but** he always gets up.
 - b) **He gets off pace**, sometimes slowing down, sometimes at a pace too fast, but he stays at his race, & runs on to completion.
 - c) The crowd yells, *Paul you're an Apostle, you must be finished with you race.* He responds, *No way...my race isn't over yet...**I Press on.***

F. **Press on** [διώκω dioko] - interesting it's the same word as *persecuting* up in vs.6, *concerning zeal persecuting the church* [concerning zeal he **pressed** the church].

1. **I persecuted/I press** - *The same energy I put into **ruining** The church, I now put into **running** the church.*

G. **What mile of the race are you on?** - **How's your pace?**

1. Sometimes running can get **monotonous**, **but** take heart...you're on *the **Right Road.*** **And** if your on the *right road* you'll get to the *right destination.*
2. **Don't focus on yesterday:** **either** on your **accomplishments** (which can lead to **pride**) **nor** on your **failures** (which can lead to unnecessary **guilt**).

H. **Press on** - [Press Toward *the Eternal Tape*]

- l. You're tired, it's your last lap, you're out of energy, need water, sweating hard, you want to give up...*Press on.*
 1. **Press on** in your marriage. **Press on** in your finances. **Press on** in your studies. **Press on** in your job situation. **Press on *High Schoolers*** in your final exams coming up. **Press on *Mother's*** in your grief's & hardships. **Press on** in your relationship with your relatives. **Press on** in your life goals. **Press on** in your serving. **Press on** in your pilgrimage.
 - a) **And why** do we press on? Because **Jesus** pressed on **all the way** to the cross.
 - b) **And how** do we press on? Because we *know Him & the power of His res.*

J. **Slide10c A NEW GOAL** (13,14)

K. **Forgetting** - *to dismiss from the mind; to stop remembering.*

1. Used for a runner **not looking back** once passing another runner; **instead** focusing on **the tape** set before him.

L. **So forget/put out of your mind/stop remembering anything** in your **background** which hinders your pursuit of God.

1. Don't take this to mean that **memory** has no place in our spiritual artillery. **It does.** Some battles are won by remembered mercies (Psalm 77:10,11).

2. **The point is not: never look back. The point is: only look back** for the sake of pressing forward.

M. **In your race of life is there something you need to stop remembering? Do you know that looking back only slows up your race? Do you know the best way to get even is to forget?**

1. **Today is the day to stop remembering & put it behind you.**

N. **Reaching Forward** - *leaning, stretching, straining.* [like a runner leaning forward]

1. The drivers of the Chariot Races in the Isthmian Games stood on **a small round disk, wheel on each side, no rail, pulled by a horse or 2.**

a) Straining, leaning forward, w/every nerve & muscle to try to stay on.

2. **Does this intensity describe your race? Are you making deliberate progress in your life? [stretch, strain, strive for the prize]**

O. **Goal** - *skopos. A goal understood as a target that one aims a weapon at.*

1. It's our English word **scope** ⊕ - Fix on it. Lock on it.

2. Paul has turned the last curve & now is in the home stretch where he can see **the goal. What are your eyes fixed on?**

a) Heb.12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.*

b) *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.*

P. **I press toward the goal for the prize** -

1. One defined this as, **The goal continually moving forward as we press on, but yet never out of sight.**

a) At 1st I thought, *how mean of God to be backing up as we are pressing forward.*
 Then I pictured a father getting a toddler to walk. (eg) The **toddler** leaves the couch behind him, walks wobbly to the parent, stumbling a few times along the way. The father picks him up, gets him balanced, & he starts again. Never giving up, for he longs to be with the father.

2. Prize? The prize is **Christlikeness**.

Q. Slide10d **A NEW MIND** (15,16)

R. Stuart Briscoe described these 2 verses this way, *I am **mature/complete in the sense that I have grown as far as I can at the present, & I am ready for the next lesson.***

S. **Maturing** - (Story) High in the Alps is a **monument** raised in honor of *a faithful guide who perished while ascending a peak to **rescue** a stranded tourist.* Inscribed on that memorial stone are these words: **HE DIED CLIMBING**. A **maturing, growing** Christian should have the same kind of attitude, *right up to the end of life.* [I want to fail trying]

T. Note the shift from **I** to **us** (re-read, note: *us, many, we us, us*)

1. Paul very graciously allows them to **grow at their own pace**.

2. The race is not Solo. We're running as a team.

a) **Some runners** in a race run by & don't even acknowledge you're there, **others** encourage you along.

b) Have you heard of **Heartbreak Hill** in the Boston Marathon. It's at the 20 mile mark (26m, 385yds). In 1936 defending champ **John Kelley** caught **Ellison Tarzan Brown** & gave him a consolatory pat on the back as he passed. His competitive drive apparently stoked by this gesture, Tarzan Brown rallied, pulled away from Kelley, and went on to **win** and in the words of Boston Globe reporter "*breaking Kelley's heart*". Thus, Heartbreak Hill.

c) **Help others to keep the high standard.** Help others along.

IV. Slide11a **OUR GLORIFICATION (17-21)**

A. **A NEW EXAMPLE** (17-19)

B. **Example** - *to mark & follow Paul the pace setter.* Lightfoot

1. Paul is like **the rabbit** that sets the pace in the larger races.
- C. How do we choose a mentor? John Maxwell said, *A leader (to follow) is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.*
- D. Enemies of the cross? (18) *Who?* Anyone who denies the crosses value.
- E. Slide 11b **A NEW HOME** (20)
- F. For our citizenship is in heaven - Some translate *we are a colony of heaven.*
- G. **Citizenship/Colony** - Rome would normally send out 300 veteran soldiers who served their time, w/their families, & settle them in a strategic location.
1. They would speak Roman **language**, wear Roman **dress**, have Roman **ceremonies**, & Roman **customs**. They were stubbornly & unalterably ROMAN.
 2. Paul is saying, *Just as the Roman colonists never forget that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are citizens of heaven; & your conduct must match your citizenship.*
- H. Slide 11c **A NEW BODY** (21)
- I. **Our Lowly body** - Low back pains, headaches, toothaches, cracks & creaks.
- J. **His Glorious body** - **If you Picture:** The feeling of a warm shower on a cold morning. Laying down after a hard day. The feeling of drinking down cold water after a good work out. A time when you've said, *I feel great...yah, it's nothing like that!...It's 10 billion times better!!!*
1. We are a **Heaven-bound people** in a **Hell-bound world**.
- K. **Very End:** *On your Mark* (stay in your lane) *Get Set* (starting position) *Go* (be world changers!)