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There is a prize! Lets not forget this! In I Corinthians 9:24 we read; "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."

There are two aspects here we must see. **Number one:** that there is a prize. We have a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun. If this was not so then everything we do as Christians is in vain. Last month we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and Paul wrote in Philippians 3: 10 & 11, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Then in verse 14 he adds, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The prize is resurrection to life eternal with our Lord Jesus Christ!

"For the Lord Himself, shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of GOD: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (I Thessalonians 4: 16-18) **There is a prize!** We also read in revelation 21: 3 & 4, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Glory to GOD! **What a prize!**

But, sadly enough there will be many who will not obtain this prize, which brings us to the **Second aspect** of I Corinthians 9:24, "So run, that ye may obtain." All of us, whether good or bad, believer or unbeliever, Christian or Atheist; are eternal beings. Whether we believe that or not makes no difference, the Word of God makes it very clear. We are either going to rise to life or we will rise to death. Jesus said in John 5: 28-29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

There is a prize, the resurrection of life, but we must run in such a way that we may obtain.

Death, real death is alienation from God. We know this from the account in Genesis Chapters 2 and 3, where God told Adam that he may eat of every tree in the garden except one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." We know the rest of the story, the devil deceived, they ate, and were cast out of the presence of God. Death came in the form of being cut off from God. The act of eating from that tree represented acting independent of God. If we live independent of God, then we are in danger of missing the prize. Isaiah 56:1 says, "Thus saith the LORD, keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed." "Keep ye judgment", in other words, don't let go of good judgment; if what you are doing is separating you from God, **stop it!** Do justice, do what is right before God because the time of His return is eminent! Verse 2 begins with, "Blessed is the man that doeth this," and then in verse 5 we read, "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. **This is the prize,** but we must not let go of good judgment, and we must do that which is

right before God. Now is not the time for us to play with this rotten world, Christ's return is soon. If you're ever going to start obeying God, now is the time. Don't put it off! Seek God, pay your tithes, pray like you've never prayed before. Forgive and you will be forgiven. The only thing that separates us from God is sin, see Isaiah 59:2. I'm going to end this newsletter with 2 Peter 3:10&11, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation (or way of living) and godliness." Are you running so as to obtain the prize? Or are you sitting on the sidelines where there is no possibility of obtaining the prize?

The purpose of KJIR is to every keep this prize before your eyes and to encourage you, "So run, that ye may obtain." At this time we would like to thank all of our faithful supporters and underwriters that help make KJIR possible.

Thank you and God Bless You,
Michael Wortman

The Legend of a Raindrop

The legend of the raindrop has a lesson for us all
 As it trembled in the heavens questioning whether it should fall -
 For the glistening raindrop argued to the genie of the sky,
 "I am beautiful and lovely as I sparkle here on high,
 And hanging here I will become part of the rainbow's hue
 And I'll shimmer like a diamond for all the world to view"...
 But the genie told the raindrop, "Do not hesitate to go,
 For you will be more beautiful if you fall to earth below,
 For you will sink into the soil and be lost a while from sight,
 But when you reappear on earth, you'll be looked on with delight;
 For you will be the raindrop that quenched the thirsty ground
 And helped the lovely flowers to blossom all around,
 And in your resurrection you'll appear in queenly clothes
 With the beauty of the lily and the fragrance of the rose;
 Then, when you wilt and wither, you'll become part of the earth
 And make the soil more fertile and give new flowers birth"...
 For there is nothing ever lost or ETERNALLY NEGLECTED,
 For EVERYTHING GOD EVER MADE IS ALWAYS RESURRECTED;
 So trust God's all-wise wisdom and doubt the Father never,
 For in HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM THERE IS NOTHING LOST FOREVER.

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