

STAYING ON TRACK

Dear Friend:

90 years ago, or so, when I ran track and cross country in high school, one of the things our coach said to us (same coach for both) was: “Be sure you stay on track.” That meant two things: run the pace you need to and literally – stay on the track. For cross country, it meant stay on the course. Step off the track or the course and you are disqualified.

As I run longer and longer on the course of the Christian life, I see too many of my friends who are no longer on the course because they have chosen to step off the course/track. Maybe because the pain of a broken marriage and they failed to hold on to their faith. Maybe it is the death of a child or spouse, or maybe they were expecting an easier race in the Christian life. Whatever the reason, they have chosen the way of the world rather than the way of the cross.

Do you want to stay in the race? I hope you do; I BELIEVE you do. Let me briefly share with you three race strategies to cross the finish line of the way of the cross. See Hebrews 12:1-4 for these 3 strategies. Strategy 1 = REALIZE THE TRACK IS WELL WORN. Hebrews 12:1 says we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Oh, I wish I had space to go in-depth. The “witnesses” chiefly refers to saints who have completed the race before us and are in the heavenly grandstand cheering. Strategy 2 = RUN AS A COMPETITOR, NOT JUST AS AN ENTRANT. Discipline to compete, sacrifice to compete. No serious runner enters a race just to enter it. A serious runner runs to do his or her best. Even as I ran across the state of Ohio in 2002, I was competing against myself and often against the clock to run a good time. Strategy 3 = RUN FOR THE JOY OF THE FINISH. Runners who fail to focus on the finish line may not finish. Finishing is worth it all.

Whether you have just started your race in the Christian life or you are a 70-year veteran of faith, stick to the strategies – Jesus (and a cloud of witnesses) are waiting for you at the finish line.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Ron Morgan Family (Ron passed away), Jimmy Barnes (swelling), Bonnie Boone

Events:

- Saturday 8:30 AM – 11:00AM – Workday
- Sunday 6:00PM Hymn Sing