



WORD LIVING

Stewards In Action

NOVEMBER 2010

STEWARDSHIP – Living Without Compromise

GET REAL - LET'S RUN THE RACE

WELCOME – and thank you for the opportunity to share a word from the Lord. Our Lord is soon coming and we must do all we can to talk, walk and live for Jesus so others will seek Him as Savior and Lord.

We have been talking about various subjects that support this year's theme – "Living Without Compromise." The question, why did you leave me was selected to provoke your thinking. Each month, we want to help you see Satan's blatant disregard for God's people. Look around, he is using people, including those in various leadership positions, to support sinful living.

There is a point at which we must stop and evaluate our position. It is either 100% right or 100% wrong. This is not the time for compromise (give and take, finding the middle ground, negotiation or cooperation) sin can never be acceptable to Jesus, so it cannot be acceptable to his children.

"Get Real – Let's Run the Race" Hebrews chapter 12.

GET READY

There must be preparation before one can run a race. In the physical race, one must begin with the thought process. There must be a desire to participate in the race such that you begin the painful daily routine of getting your body in shape.

When you are new at this, you seek professional assistance from those that have achieved the goal. With the internet, you can go to several sites and find guides that walk you through the process of getting your body in shape so you can run to win. However, the key to success is the mind set. Making the decision to endure the change and deny what has been the normal in order to reach the goal.

Set a workout schedule. That means each day the body is doing something to prepare it for the race. The body must be forced to endure some pain if the ultimate goal is to be obtained.

Pace yourself so you finish the race. To start out running fast, will only lead to fading towards the end of the race. The idea is to endure to the end.

Practice running short distance races to develop a strategy and builds confidence. Each time you run, you will learn something that will help you in the future.

Learning through failure is a building block if we never lose our enthusiasm to win.

Read the rules so you don't get disqualified. Every race has basic rules so that each participant travels the same course, starts from the same point, and crosses the established finish line to in order to win.

So how do we use the physical training to prepare ourselves for the real race that we cannot afford to lose?

John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)

DO YOU WANT EVERLASTING LIFE? If the answer is no, read Revelation 20:10-15. You may want to rethink your answer. If your answer is yes the race begins now.

1. There must be a desire, not just to participate in the race, but you must want to win more than anything. The goal, to spend eternity with Jesus is the only reward that exceeds anything you could ever image or desire.
2. In order to ensure how to get totally prepared to run, you must seek professional assistance from the only one who has achieved the goal. Because every day is new, you must seek Jesus daily. Your mind must make the decision to follow instructions, endure the change and deny what has been the norm in order to reach the goal.
3. Set a daily workout schedule. The mind must be forced to endure the painful separation from self-centered desires and conform to a new kind of normal if the

ultimate goal is to be obtained. (Matthew 6:33; II Timothy 2:15; and Romans 12:1-2)

4. Pace yourself so you finish the race. The mind must keep the body in good condition in order to function. There must be time to eat, sleep, enjoy family/friends, worship, have quiet time and rest. You cannot know all and do all in one day but you can learn something each day and apply it to your life.
5. Practice using what you have learned and share it. Share the word with family and friends. "My mind knew it, but it didn't come out right." Yes, we will fail and feel sad, but there is much to learn when we fail. Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. Winston Churchill **In the training manual (Proverbs 24:16)** Key point – get back up again
6. The training manual, gives us examples of ordinary people men and women, each with the same trainer, each with the same training manual and each with freedom to choose the ultimate goal or a lesser one that ends in everlasting torment.
7. To win the ultimate goal, we must get serious about the race. We have to strip off all the unnecessary weights. The great trainer and guide, Jesus, finished the race. If we follow his example, we see the course was not easy. Some friendships and family ties took a lesser position, because he had to be about his Father's business. (Luke 2:49) Pray, the energy boost, keeps the body from becoming dehydrated so the runner has a clear focus and follows the trainers direction without question. (Luke 22:42)

Are you ready to get serious about eternal life? Are you ready to give up all for the sake of Jesus? You cannot continue to do your thing and expect to slide into heaven. This is the race but there are rules.

Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (KJV)

You and I cannot afford to lose this race. The outcome is too horrible to imagine. To live in the temporary enjoying temporary stuff, fighting over temporary stuff, out of fellowship with family, friends and God over temporary stuff. Ask yourself this question – **IS THIS TEMPORARY STUFF WORTH MY SOUL LIVING IN THE LAKE OF FIRE FOR ETERNITY?**

His steward – Karen Cheatham

