

MESSAGE.

Paul reminds us that the Christian life is a race worth running with intentionality and purpose. Because Jesus has captivated our hearts, sacrifice is not something to avoid but something to embrace. We do not pursue Christ to earn salvation, but because we have already received His grace. The Gospel compels us to surrender our time, desires, and priorities so we can live for something greater than ourselves.

BCC Big Idea: *Purpose is found in intentional, loving, sacrificial living.*

ENGAGE.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:23–27.

1. Paul compares the Christian life to a runner competing for a prize. What stands out to you about that comparison?
2. Why do you think sacrifice is often viewed negatively? How does the Gospel change the way we see sacrifice?
3. What are some areas where intentional discipline is needed in order to grow spiritually?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24–26.

1. Paul says runners compete with purpose and self-control. What does that teach us about how we should approach following Jesus?
2. What things can distract us or keep us from running the race God has called us to?
3. How can we make sure we are pursuing Christ rather than simply staying busy with good things?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:27.

1. Paul says he disciplines his body so he would not be disqualified. What role do spiritual disciplines play in helping us stay focused on Jesus?
2. What has God placed in your heart that reveals what you are truly running after?
3. What is one intentional, loving sacrifice you can make this week to pursue Jesus and His purposes more fully?

PRAYER.

Father, thank You for Your grace and for calling us to follow Jesus. Help us run the race set before us with purpose, discipline, and faithfulness. Show us what is distracting us, and give us the courage to make sacrifices that honor You. May our lives reflect Your love and bring glory to Your name. Amen.

