



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 7, 2015

ARE WE FOCUSED?

PASTOR ANDY

IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER I HAD TAKEN A LITTLE TIME OFF FROM RUNNING BUT I HAVE RECENTLY STARTED UP AGAIN. IT FEELS GOOD TO GET MY SHOES ON THE STREET AGAIN BUT I FOUND MYSELF JOGGING THE OTHER DAY AND ASKING MYSELF THESE QUESTIONS: WHY AM I RUNNING? WHAT AM I TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH? DO I HAVE A GOAL?

WHEN I GOT HOME I RECEIVED TWO PHONE CALLS FROM TWO DIFFERENT GUYS NAMED JOE. THE FIRST WANTED TO KNOW IF I WANTED TO DO THE MINI-MARATHON DOWNTOWN – 13.1 MILES (WHICH I DON'T). I HAVEN'T DONE WELL THE LAST TWO YEARS IN THIS RACE. THE OTHER WAS TO SEE IF I WANTED TO DO THE NEW YORK CITY MARATHON IN 2017 – 26.2 MILES (WHICH I DON'T – ALTHOUGH THIS ONE DOES SOUND A LITTLE MORE APPEALING).

STILL, THE QUESTIONS ARE THE SAME. WHY AM I RUNNING IF THERE IS NO GOAL TO ATTAIN?

I THINK IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL WE CAN RUN IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE SAME MANNER.

I CORINTHIANS 9:26-27

²⁶ THEREFORE I RUN IN SUCH A WAY, AS NOT WITHOUT AIM; I BOX IN SUCH A WAY, AS NOT BEATING THE AIR; ²⁷ BUT I DISCIPLINE MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE, SO THAT, AFTER I HAVE PREACHED TO OTHERS, I MYSELF WILL NOT BE DISQUALIFIED.

IN THE PROPER CONTEXT WE KNOW THAT PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT BEING A WITNESS FOR JESUS CHRIST. THIS IS HIS AIM. THIS IS WHY GOD SOUGHT HIM OUT. GOD SPOKE TO ANANIAS AND SAID OF SAUL, "GO, FOR HE IS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF MINE, TO BEAR MY NAME BEFORE THE GENTILES AND KINGS AND THE SONS OF ISRAEL (ACTS 9: 15).

NOW, BECAUSE PAUL'S AIM IN LIFE IS TO SEE PEOPLE COME TO KNOW THE LORD, THIS BECOMES HIS CENTER FOCUS. THIS IS WHAT HE TRAINS TO DO. THIS IS WHAT MATTERS TO HIM. EVERYTHING ELSE GETS LAID ASIDE. HE DESIRES TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED!

WHAT IS OUR DESIRE? I AM SURE EVERYONE IN OUR CHRISTIAN CULTURE WILL SAY IT IS TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED, BUT ARE WE WILLING TO GIVE UP "SOMETHING" TO TRAIN AND PREACH SO OTHERS CAN HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST?

PAUL WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP PERSONAL TIME, RELATIONSHIPS, WEALTH, POPULARITY, LEADERSHIP, AND HEALTH SO OTHERS COULD HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. HE HAD FOCUS IN WHAT HE WANTED. DO WE?

WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD? I PRAY WE ARE NOT RUNNING WITHOUT AIM.