

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**“Do you not know...?”** (1 Cor 9:19-27)

- When Paul wrote those words, he assumed his audience understood the illustration. It was particularly appropriate in a letter to **Corinth**, which was the location of the biennial Isthmian Games—second in fame only to the Olympic Games.
- Everyone knew about these games and they provided Paul a perfect opportunity to draw the attention of Christians to a much greater reality.

Following the same train of thought, what can we learn from the Olympic athlete?

1. _____ training is of some value, but training in _____ is of infinite value. (1 Tim 4:6-8, 11-12, 15-16; 2 Tim 3:14-17; Titus 2:11-14)
2. _____-_____ is a must. (1 Cor 9:25a, 27)
3. An athlete isn't crowned unless he or she competes according to the _____. (2 Tim 2:5)
4. In order to reach the goal, the _____ must be left behind and focus must be on what lies ahead. (Phil 3:7-15; 1 Cor 9:26)
5. Victory is experienced only by those who _____ participate. (2 Tim 4:6-8)
6. Olympic glory _____ so very quickly, but the glory we are striving for is _____. (1 Cor 9:25b; 2 Cor 4:16-18)