



The eyes of the world will turn to Paris, France on July 26 for the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics. These sorts of games are ancient—dating back to 776 BC in Olympia, the center of Greek civilization. They were held every four years, for more than a thousand years (to at least 393 AD), which made them well known to people living in the days that the New Testament was written.

“Do you not know?” Athletes who bring the best...

- Exercise _____ - _____ in all things (1 Cor 9:25a)
- Compete according to the _____ (2 Tim 2:5)
- Have an _____ that focuses their everything on the goal (1 Cor 9:26)
- Show up and _____ (2 Tim 4:7)
- Compete as if only _____ receives the prize (1 Cor 9:24)
- Forget what lies behind and _____ (Phil 3:13)

And yet, Olympic glory fades so very quickly...

- Paul’s point: If those athletes are bringing their best for a perishable prize, shouldn’t we be bringing our best for an _____ prize? (1 Cor 9:24-25)
- Which is why disciples are pointed to the best _____ (1 Tim 4:7-8; Tit 2:11-14), the best _____ (2 Tim 2:1), the best _____ (Rom 15:13), the best _____ (2 Tim 4:7-8)

“Many of us are _____ something in life because we are after the _____.” (Eric Liddell, Olympian in the 1924 Games)