

we all know we are running a race. "but none of these things move me; nor do i count my life dear to myself, so that i may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which i received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." acts 20:24 i do testify now to the gospel of the grace of God.

you know, i have often skipped over reading the book of acts as i look to the riches contained in the other scriptures. perhaps you have also. the truth is, there is much to be gleaned from the book of acts also. indeed "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness". 2 tim 3:16

back to running the race. "do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? run in such a way that you may obtain it." 1 cor 9:24 we are all "one" in Christ Jesus. we are all a part of the body of Christ. we are winners in Him.

there are none that are to be more valued than others. of course, we give honor to whom honor is due. but that does not mean they are more valued by God. even as the apostle paul noted so well, "and those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty". 1 cor 12:24

God has dealt to everyone a measure of faith and a number of talents to work with. Jesus did not speak anything in vain. His parables are lessons made easy that we may learn from them. (i love it that He dumbs

down for us who are simple.)

He taught us in matt 25 about the talents the master distributed to his servants. to one he gave ten. to another five. to another only one. they all increase their talents except the one who received only one. the one who received only one talent hide it and returned it without increase to his master. the servant was only returning what was given to him initially.

in his displeasure the master not only took his talent but gave it to the one who had already had an abundance. and the story does not end there. he cast the servant into outer darkness. was this too harsh a punishment? the Lord did not think so.

our Master is not greedy for money but for souls. was this servants talent not equivalent to his knowledge of the gospel? has he buried his gift of salvation and not shared with another? was he ashamed to confess Jesus as his Lord? his hope. "therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven." matt 10:32

we are told in rom 10 that salvation not only requires to believe in our hearts, but also to confess with our mouth. and it should not be a timid confession but a confession of boldness and confidence. confidence that "that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ". phil 1:6

there is no place for hesistancy or shame. we are in a race between good and evil. light and darkness. life

and death. "let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us". heb 12:1

i know not of others. i may only have been given one talent but i will most joyfully sow it for His glory. there will be joy unspeakable if even one soul comes to know my Lord as i do. He is full of grace and truth. He is the way, the truth and the life.

today God is often used in a generic term. the truth is there is only one God and He is not generic. it is not my job to prove that to others. it is God's job. i just speak the truth as i know it. anyone asking in truth for the real God to reveal Himself - He will. go with no preconceived ideas or religious beliefs. He will be that Father welcoming home the prodigal son. i cannot overstate the importance of this matter. we all will know eternity. your spirit is eternal. it is God breathed. the question is "will it be with or without God"?

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