

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

GREAT LETN: A SPIRITUAL RACE

SPIRITUAL DISICPINE PREPARES A CHRISTIAN

Numerous times in the Bible, our Christian Life is compared to a RACE. Each year we run another leg of the journey; each year brings us closer to our goal of the Lord's kingdom. All "runners" long to win but what do we actually need to do to accomplish this?

Since our goal is salvation, we need DISCIPLINE. Just think of the astronauts that have "The Right Stuff." They are chosen carefully and go through rigorous training, all to become disciplined. Like wise, believers must be disciplined. This should be evident in our devotional life and in everything we think, say and do. Physically and morally, we need to achieve self control. Strive to be temperate in all things. Ultimately, we must be guided by the Holy Spirit and not be the flesh.

We also need DIRECTION. In *Phillippians 3: 13-14*, we are instructed to "forget things that are behind." Leave your past behind, forgetting old wrongs. We cannot win by looking back. "Reach forth" to seize opportunities to serve Christ. Stretch forward with anticipation, eagerly welcoming all the spiritual challenges that await us. We should "keep pressing toward the goal." Make the best use of your time and talent in service to the glory of God. Live life with eternal rewards in mind.

We do want to be dressed correctly for this race. Lay aside your earthly cares. Extra weight will only slow you down. Be willing to lose the unnecessary weight that may be hindering your progress. Remember that it will all be worth it, when we finally reside with our Saviour.