

1Cor. 9:24-27 HIPPODROME..PAULS WRITINGS (Hebr. 12:1b-2a)

*Do you not know that **those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize?** Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.*" The reason Paul is talking about athletes and competitions is because he was in Caesarea for 3 years. Paul was very familiar and spent considerable time at the "Hippodrome" of Herod the Great, located in Caesarea. Paul went there to teach the gospel to the many people who gathered there for the games. Paul would no doubt watch all the great athletes who gathered at the Hippodrome as they made their bodies come under severe discipline. Likewise, we as believers are to discipline our bodies to be led by the spirit and become slaves to the holy spirit. Herod's Hippodrome attracted athletes from around the world for Olympic type games. Herod, a paranoid schizophrenic, was untrusting and delusional in regards to people overthrowing him. His paranoia was so bad that he had one of his ten wives, Miriam and their two sons, Aristobulus and Alexander put to death for fear they would overthrow his empire. That is the reason why Herod had all the babies two years old and younger killed at the time of Yeshua's birth (Matt. 2:13-16). He heard from his wise men that a King had been born and he was paranoid. Herod was also known for building the world's first floating city.

Hebr. 12:1b-2a *let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run** with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Yeshua, the author and perfecter of faith"* Only those who run the race can expect to receive a reward. In christianity for many years now we have had people supposedly running the race but all they did was start the race. They never finished it at all, yet they proclaim to have won the trophy of salvation!

We often hear people saying that spiritually speaking, they are slow learners. How is it possible to be in a race if we are not running, growing exponentially in the word? Obviously something is holding those people back. They need to deal with whatever ball and chain (bondage) that is. Growing spiritually is NOT a slow process if you are serious. Yeshua is at the end of the race with open arms, do you think He will have open arms if you are crawling, or walking?

(Mar/16) Jerry Hennig