The relationship that leads us to victory

God is the same God, He never changes. We see that as Paul continues from chapter 9 when he speaks of "**winning the prize**", or not being "**disqualified**". He wanted his life to count for something eternal.

He did not want to fizzle out with the task unfinished. (Is this your heart?)

We often reflect on *missed opportunities*, of *jobs unfinished*, *bucket lists not checked*.

A life filled with purpose is what God wants to do with each of us, and in our church.

Churches in Revelation heard "I stand at the door and knock" , "if any hear my voice opens the door I will come in", 'return to your first love", and "if not, the lampstand is removed".

As in past days, many *quit on God*. Many wanted God for *their own purposes*, and many fell **short of experiencing the blessings of being all in with God and His** plan.

Frightening. And Paul was not going to play religion, He was all in a relationship with God fully!

1 Corinthians 10:1–5 (ESV)

10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud,
and all passed through the sea, [2] and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
[3] and all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from
the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. [5] Nevertheless, with most of
them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

- Under the cloud- they were all being led by God and yet, most disqualified…
- They identified with Moses- and they escaped with the faith of Moses and a few, but **ultimately their faith was not their own**!

1. Take heed lest you fall- (The desire for things outside of our walk with God is our undoing)

1 Corinthians 10:6–12 (ESV)

[6] Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.
[7] Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and
drink and rose up to play." [8] We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did,
and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. [9] We must not put Christ to the test, as some
of them did and were destroyed by serpents, [10] nor grumble, as some of them did and were
destroyed by the Destroyer. [11] Now these things happened to them as an example, but they
were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. [12] Therefore
let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

A.) **An idol is anything that we put in the place of God**. (Yes, we are desperate for God.)
B.) Israel in the wilderness, desired other than God's provisions.

C.) They grumbled and murmured. (Wanted to do things their way and not God's.) Sounds like some church today.
D.) It is a lesson that we should learn from, Paul says.
E.) We need to be in God's Word and led by God's Spirit not grieving the Holy Spirit. (**Happens when we won't call on, depend on, be led by**!)

2. <u>We are not to be overtaken as a Christian by evil</u>- (For every temptation, there is an **escape plan**, and that is God. It is being **led by the Holy Spirit**. In **relationship with God**.)

1 Corinthians 10:13–17 (ESV)
[13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
[14] Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. [15] I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. [16] The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?
[17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

A.) Note: we are to flee idolatry. (Run from it) (Most Christians arrogantly claim to be clear of idolatry.)
B.) Hanging out with the idol is not fleeing, it is setting you up for a fall.

1 Corinthians 10:19–20 (ESV)
[19] What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? [20] No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.
c.) Idols are not real, but the demons that hide behind them are. (Are you wise enough to see them, does your spiritual discernment alert you to them?) **The answer is no if we don't flee, if we don't walk in relationship with God.**
D.) Our time in the Word, and our time in prayer that cleanses our souls is essential for our walk.
1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)
[8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- Serious business. It is the difference in winning and losing. (For the **unsaved eternally**, and for the **saved a life of missed purpose**)
- A **vibrant church** or **a well visited museum that celebrates yesteryear**.

1 Corinthians 10:21–22 (ESV)
[21] You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. [22] Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Conclusion

- What is the purpose of our life? How do we win the race? How do we live relationally with God, rather than religiously?

1 Corinthians 10:31–33 (ESV)
[31] So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. [32] Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, [33] just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

- Does my action glorify God? Do I walk by His Word and led by the Holy Spirit.
- Our **spiritual tanks get empty**, and we **need the filling of the Holy Spirit in prayer**, in the **Word**, and with **discernment that comes along with relationship**.
- What is a church that lives for God's glory? (How does it lose it's first love, lose its lampstand, have Jesus on the outside of the doors, instead of the inside?)
- How does a person finish their live without an incredible working of God happening?
- The thing that brings glory to our Savior is the salvation of souls.
- We have the proper mindset when we are not separated by the demons of the idols.