

# THEY RAN

## INTRODUCTION

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:24-26**

Running is referred to in the Bible to symbolize our spiritual goals as a race to win.

**B.** Rather than considering running's symbolic sense, let's spend some time considering occasions in the Bible when people literally ran and why they did so.

## I. RUN TO LEARN OF CHRIST

**A. Luke 19:1-4; Mark 6:30-33**

Zacchaeus ran to Jesus in order to learn from Him and so did the multitudes.

**B. John 6:45**

Learning is essential in order to come to God.

**C. Acts 16:29-30**

The Philippian jailor recognized the urgency of learning about Christ.

## II. RUN TO TELL ABOUT JESUS

**A. Matthew 28:1-8**

Those ladies who first discovered Jesus' tomb to be empty **ran** to tell others of the resurrection (8).

**1. Romans 1:1-4**

This fact alone, the fact of His resurrection, proved true all His claims to be the Son of God.

**2. Ephesians 1:18-20**

All the greatness of God is verified in this one fact.

**3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:14**

Our hope of resurrection is dependent on this fact.

**B. Acts 8:26-38**

Philip **ran** to the man from Ethiopia (30) in order to preach to him about Jesus (35).

**1. Mark 16:15**

He recognized urgency in Jesus' order to go preach the gospel.

**2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:2**

Salvation is a pressing issue.

**III. RUN TO RECEIVE THE PENITENT**

**A. Luke 15:11-32**

When a sinner comes to his senses and desires restoration to God, we, like the father in this story, must **run** to him (20) and welcome him back (21-24).

Like the brother in this story, some may feel resentment toward the restored one (25-30), but such a feeling is wrong (31-32).

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:6-8**

When spiritual discipline achieves its desired outcome, the once wayward one must be lovingly reaffirmed.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:1-5; James 5:19-20**

After all, the chief goal of discipline is the salvation of the one being disciplined.

**IV. RUN TO RESTRAIN FROM SIN**

**A. Acts 14:8-18**

When the idolatrous people of Lystra sought to worship Paul and Barnabas with sacrifices and offerings (11-13), those men ran in (14), cried out, and begged them to stop (15-18). **Restraining others from sinning so grievously must be done with urgency.**

**B. Acts 12:21-23**

As the case of Herod teaches us, it is sinful for a man to receive worship.

**C. Acts 10:24-26**

It is sinful for men to receive worship even if they are not mistaken to be gods, but present themselves as agents of the one true God. Such is the case with the Pope.

**D. Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11; 8:1-3; 9:18-19; 14:22-33; 15:21-28; 28:9-10, 16-17**

The obvious exception to the rule that men ought not to be worshiped is Jesus Christ Himself. In just one book of the Bible, we can read seven distinct occasions that Jesus received worship from men. Obviously, then, Jesus is Himself God.