

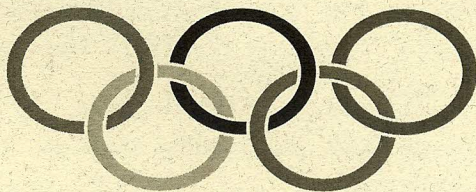
**News And
Information
For Perry
Hill Road
Members
And Friends**

Perry Hill Road Church Of Christ

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www.perryhillroadchurch.org

The Christian Olympian



The New Testament often compares the life of a Christian to that of an athlete. Spiritually speaking, every Christian must undergo rigorous training in order to achieve the success that he or she desires. Concerning the discipline needed to live a Christian life, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians and stated *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified”* (I Corinthians 9:24-27). An athlete must give up many things for the greater good. This may involve delicious, yet unhealthy food, time in social activities, or pursuit of other interests. What is given up, however, will be considered as nothing when success in the competition is achieved. Such is true of Christians. Living faithfully will entail sacrifice, which means giving up things of this world in order to grow spiritually. Just as with the athlete, this will take discipline and self-control, yet a Christian must always remember that what is being forfeited in this life is for the purpose of becoming more like God.

Every cross-country runner understands that part of racing is building up the endurance necessary to finish. Such again is the case with every Christian. To this end, the Hebrew writer stated *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”* (Hebrews 12:1). *Continued on the next page.....*

