

²² ***To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.***

The work of the gospel was the great axis around which everything in Paul's life revolved.

Being a partaker, in verse 23, is the joy of seeing souls saved, and being saved himself. Kelly

All believers have the life from above which qualifies them to run

The finish line for the believer is the Gospel of the **Glory of Christ. Or Christlikeness**

2 Tim. 4:8 *in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,*

In view of the comparative value of these rewards, Paul ran the Christian race purposefully, not aimlessly or halfheartedly.

When Paul speaks of *not beating the air*, he is pointing to efficiency in service.

1 Tim. 4:8 Paul says that the bodily discipline which took the form of physical exercise "profits little."

On the other hand, godliness is profitable for all things. The word "godliness" is again *eusebeia*, "reverence, respect, faithfulness toward God."

There would be difficulty if Paul spoke of having been born again and afterwards becoming a castaway: in this case life would **not** be eternal Vv.27.