



## Sermon Notes – Steve Southards – 06/09/2024

### ***Ephesians 4:1 NLT***

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

### ***2 Timothy 4:5-8 NLT***

But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return.

### **A Daily Race of a Holy Life.**

### ***2 Timothy 1:9 NLT***

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

### **An Earthly Race of a Heaven-sent Assignment.**

### ***Acts 20:24 NLT***

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

When you compare your race to someone else's race, it's easier to give up.

### ***Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT***

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

**When you get distracted, it takes you off course.**

*Proverbs 4:27 NLT*

Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

**What race are you training for?**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So, run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.