

What Is Your Problem?

Gospel is like a race. Gal.2:2

1. Hard work
2. Brief
3. Prize only for winner

Gospel is not like a race

Race:

1. Only one wins
2. One may hinder another
3. Perishable crown

Gospel:

1. All can win
2. Each may help others
3. Incorruptible crown

Contextual summary (Ga.5:7) –

- You ran... Not mere walking
- Well... Many start well...
- Who? Others influence us... 3:1
- Hindered you? 1 Th.2:18
- From obeying? Essence of spiritual failure. 3:1
- Truth. Gospel. Jn.8:31-32

Hindered – Ga.5:7

- Lit., cut a trench between oneself and an advancing foe to prevent his progress: fell trees; burn bridges; *hinder, thwart . . .*
- Napoleon . . . 1812
- Hinder is opposite of advance (1:14) – clear a way, act as pioneer, advance
 - Gal.5:7, satan's delight...: often suddenly
 - Gal.5:13, satan's distractions (heretics): subtly
 - Gal.5:19-21, satan's draw (Ac.20:30): steadily

I. Past Success Does Not Guarantee Future Salvation

Race: common biblical figure for serving Lord

- Gal.2:2, how Paul did not run
- Gal.5:6, perseverance pays
- Gal.5:7, Paul's last impression - encouraging

I. Past Success Does Not
Guarantee Future Salvation

II. Present Obedience
Wins The Crown

Obey: same root as 5:8

- Obedience is an ongoing process
- 2 Th.1:8, vengeance . . .
- Deadly words: “*I used to...*”

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III. Persistent Hindrances
Come From Satan

Two hindrances to avoid

- Avoid hindering others. Gal.5:7 (4:19)
- Avoid hindering ourselves. 1 Th.2:18

Be on guard: 3:1

1. People, 5:7, 8, 9, 10

- Unwise advice. 1 Sm.17:...39
- Deception. 2 Tim.4:15
- Family. Lk.9:59

2. Problems, 5:13-15, 26

3. Past, 5:16-17, 19-21. Mt.14

4. Preoccupation, 6:9-10

- Apathy
- Amusements. Lk.14:16-20
- Affluence. Mt.19:22

I. Past Success Does Not
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III. Persistent Hindrances
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IV. Prevail Over Hindrances

How to prevail?

- Do not lose faith in God. Gal.5:6. Ro.8:37
- Pursue wisdom. Gal.5:16. Ac.16:28
- Offer God your best. Ac.8:36
- Treat others as you want to be treated.
1 Pt.3:7. Mal.2
- Avoid tripping. Gal.5:4

Epistle of Galatians builds up to this warning

1. Let him be accursed, 1:9
2. Please men or God? 1:10
3. Nothing can excel divine revelation, 1:12
4. Once zealous for fathers' tradition, 1:14
5. Separated by Lord from womb, 1:15
6. Confer with flesh and blood? 1:16
7. Preach truth – glorify God, 1:23-24
8. False brothers brought in to enslave us, 2:4
9. Did not yield even for an hour, 2:5
10. Crucified to world, not enslaved to it, 6:14