



## **Lesson 5    Selfish Ambition**    Teacher: Beth Seifert

Read 2 Timothy 4:2-8. When are we supposed to be prepared? (Verse 2)

How are we supposed to correct and rebuke each other? (Verse 2)

Even when all those around us fall away, what are we to do? (Verse 5)

If we are faithful and finish well, what will be waiting for us on the final day? (Verse 8)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27. If you were training for competition, what would you do in order to compete? What does strict training look like?

Consider the following habits:

- 5 minutes of Bible reading a day
- Praying at meal times
- Church on Sunday
- An hour of midweek Bible study every week

Do the above habits look like “strict training” to you?

If you are relying on **ONLY** the above habits to run the race of faith, you will not be prepared for the race. All told, those habits would only take up roughly 5 hours and 35 min of your week. Now, here’s the thing: in every week, you have approximately 168 *waking* hours. If you were a triathlete, do you think spending roughly 5.5 hours a week on training would adequately prepare you for the race? Michael Phelps, the record setting gold medalist, spends anywhere from 2-5 hours *a day* training.

Read Luke 13:22-30. What door are we to strive to enter in through? Where are we trying to enter into?

Read Colossians 1:24. What does Paul rejoice in here? Is this for his own benefit?

Suffering for faith in Christ as a gift; a sign that you're doing the right thing. However, a warning here: we can suffer and our suffering may not be even remotely associated with Christ. Just because you say you are suffering for Christ, doesn't make it so. If I steal money from an employer, I'll suffer with the consequences (and so will my family). But claiming (whether it is true or not) that I took the money to give to the church or to the needy does not glorify God; I'm not suffering for Christ in this situation. I'm suffering because of my own greed and pride. How are you running your race? Consider the "checklist" above. How can you add—in practical ways—to your training for Christ?