

So the end result is that the Bible says a lot about ordering the course...it is our responsibility to translate this into action.

3. Ruling: How do we do it?

In the language of 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 we discipline ourselves first of all. We profit from the instruction and example we have been seeking to set for others and apply solid principles of growth to ourselves. This is the sort of discipline that does not accept alibis based on personality or preference. It simply says..."I will keep my body in subjection to the truths given by God." Anything less than that is a loss of discipline.

With self-discipline we organize our goals and accept the duties God has given us...some of them are given through Christians in our fellowship and some are part of life or a unique calling by the Holy Spirit. To this we add the injunction of Colossians 3:17 and aim to please the Lord. The "whatsoever" clause of this verse is compelling and our thought must be on what pleases the Lord. This is governed by the Scripture, not our imagination of some human judgment. At this point we bring in the diligence using every energy and every known ability to effect the completion of the course. In so doing we learn how to rule and well may demonstrate the gift of administration into some higher point of calling where God may use us in a more demonstrable setting.

C. Conclusion. Don't avoid the issue, whatever else you do. Learn to order the affairs of life carefully for the Glory of God.

VI. Become a Helper to your brethren

Romans 12:10 ff

A. Some Introductory Notes

This text introduces us to the gift of "helps"