



READY...SET...GO!

Introduction: My old running buddy loved the words - “ready, set, go!”

- I. THERE IS A LOT OF TRAINING FOR A MARATHON
 - A. Let’s talk about what goes into training for a 26.2 mile (42 km) race...
 - B. There are many comparisons to the training and race of the Christian life (Hebrews 12:1)
 - C. Without an entry form, there is no race
 - D. The Christian’s entry form: Baptism – as a child or as an adult

- II. THE MARATHON & THE CHRISTIAN RACE OF LIFE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON
 - A. Both races have obstacles, temptations and adversaries (Gal. 5:7, Heb. 3:14, James 1:12)
 - B. It takes a lot not to give up...
 1. **Madison’s confirmation verse: The Lord is my light & my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalms 27:1)**
 2. **Meaghan’s confirmation verse: As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:15)**
 3. **Graeme’s confirmation verse: I am not ashamed of the Gospel, it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)**
 - C. The presence of “cheerleader” & supporters is so very important
 1. This is true in a marathon race...
 2. God’s saints, the “great cloud of witnesses”: our cheerleaders (Heb. 11 & 12)

- III. THERE ARE SOME GLORIOUS DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER
 - A. The prizes of earthly races fade, tarnish, wear out, are lost
 1. I can tell you firsthand...
 2. St. Paul says the same thing (I Cor. 9:24a-25a)
 - B. The Christian’s prize lasts FOREVER (I Cor. 9:25b; II Tim. 4:7b-8)
 - C. No one can run a marathon for you & there are no shortcuts without penalties
 - D. In the race for eternal life, there is One Who has run for you (Heb. 12:2; 2:10-11; 11:16; 2:27)

Conclusion: Derek Redmond British 400 metre champion: His Father helped him cross the finish line...

TODAY: Madison & Meaghan & Graeme – ready...set...go!
 [In the name of Jesus]