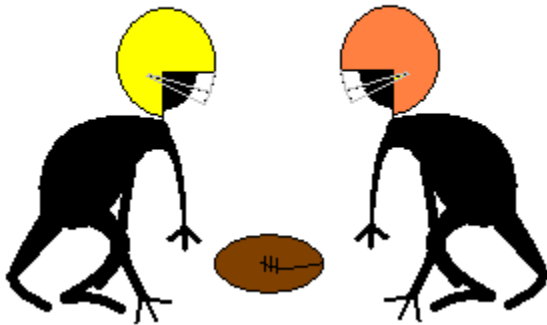


# Leave It All On The Field



By  
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**Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**

**I Corinthians 9:24**

**Leave It All On The Field** is a sports expression that reflects a Philosophy, a mind set, an attitude as well as an action. The message that is conveyed is don't hold anything back; exhaust it all on the playing field. Make sure that every ounce of your strength has been spent in your pursuit of the prize. It is this spirit that separates winners from losers.

**Leave It All On The Field!**

You would think with all of the importance that modern day man places on sports , that it was our generation that invented them. In fact, for thousands of years sports have played a vital role in the evolution of our society. . The Isthmian Games were an athletic event known to all of the people at Corinth. They were held on alternate summers in the vicinity of Corinth. It was an event not to be

missed by anyone of importance in all parts of Greece. What we have come to know as the Olympic Games take their origin from these games. The Isthmian games were a national institution, Rivalled only by our modern day Super Bowl.

Paul's reference to sports in our scripture was, in effect, his way of using a sports analogy to emphasize an important spiritual lesson. "Paul draws on a scene familiar to his Corinthian readers.

You can imagine the excitement that just the mere mention of the games invokes in the hearts and minds of the Corinthians. I can just see pastor Apollos at Corinth now waiting for the crowds to settle down so that he can continue reading Paul's letter. I'm sure they were bantering about who was the fastest, who was the strongest and who would endure, **Leaving It All On The Field**, to take home the prize.

I think it quite appropriate that as we come to the close of this year 2008 and as we look forward to 2009 that we take one final review of how we have

come to this point in time and ask ourselves, have we have done all that we could to make 2008 all that it could be or do we need to be all the more resolute in 2009 to **Leave It All On The Field**. If there is someone who you should have apologized to and they are here tonight? Apologized to them now! If there is someone who you need to forgive? Do it now, don't carry that extra baggage in to the new year, instead, **Leave It All On The Field!** Don't be weighed down by sins of omission that can be dealt with now. Remember the writer of the Hebrews admonished us to lay aside every weight and sin that would so easily beset us and run with patience the race that is set before us. What he was really saying to us was **Leave It All On The Field!**

One has to give up to Paul for his unique style and approach to this spiritual truth. He likens soul winning as well as our spiritual journey, to the field of action and shows us through personal example how we should play the game:

First he captures their attention by reminding them that in a race everybody runs. All who set their feet in the starting blocks run! But Paul is quick to go on and tell them that there can be only one winner. That is so even in this Christian race. There can only be one winner. It will be either you or sin. Again there can only be one. And If you are playing to win, you must **Leave It All On The Field!**

So Paul says “**So run that ye may obtain!**” I must confess to you that I am thoroughly intrigued by his phraseology. Is he saying so run or is he saying SOOOO Run? I think there is a duality in this admonishment for not only is he telling us to get up and run, or that the only way to win the race is to run, but he is also tell us how to run. **Run SO** That you can troubled on every side and not distressed, **Run SO** that you can be perplexed but not in despair, **Run So** that you can be persecuted, but forsaken, **Run so** that you can be cast down but not destroyed. **Leave It All On The Field!**

Well, Paul goes on to show us through personal example how we should run:

19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew that I might gain the Jews; as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

21 To them that were without law, (being not with the law of God, but under the law to Christ,) That I might gain them that were without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

In others words what Paul is telling us about our Christian journey is that we must **Leave It All On The Field!**

Well, my brothers and sisters, I count not myself to have apprehended, I can't say that I did it all right in 2008. I can't say that I finished everything that I started. In fact I have had my share of rising and falling, But this one thing I do, forgetting those

things Which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. I'm going to **Leave It All On The Field!**

One day I will strut off this stage of action and stick my sword into the sands of time and at that day I want to be able to say like Paul: "I fought a good fight, I kept the faith, I finished my course, **I LEFT IT ALL ON THE FIELD** and now I'm ready" Will you be ready? Will you **Leave It All On The Field?** Well, one last thing as I take my seat. **Jesus** paid it all; He didn't hold anything back. He took all of our sins and hung them on the cross. And because of that, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, but He washed it white as snow.