

## Works We Support

- **John Shafer**, Foreign Evangelism. (MO, NE, & India)
- **Peter and Pooi Fun Chin**, Four Seas College of Bible & Missions, Singapore
- **“Seek The Old Paths”**, Monthly Newsletter
- **Chuck Northrop**, Bible Institute of Missouri (Instructor)
- **Kent Eakins**, Hermitage, MO
- **Chris O'Brien**, Mexico
- **“Whom Do You Serve?”**, Television Program
- **“Bible Questions With Bible Answers”**, Television Program

### Scripture Readings

**AM: Judges 7:4-7**

**PM: Ephesians 4:1**

### Upcoming Sermons

#### Sunday AM

October 2: Philip Steele – Outnumbered

October 9: Tom Van Alstine – The Church As God  
Would Have It

October 16: Philip Steele - Leadership

#### Sunday PM

October 2: #594 Philip Steele – Worthy Of The Name

October 9: #595

October 16: #596 Philip Steele

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### Web Site Information

[www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org)

<http://sermons.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

### To See Our Services Live:

<http://live.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

Sundays: 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 3 p.m.

### Services:

#### **Sunday**

Bible Class: 10 a.m.

Worship Assembly: 11 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

#### **Wednesday**

Bible Classes: 7 p.m.

## Sunday, October 2, 2016

[http://webbervillechurchofchrist.org/?page\\_id=9](http://webbervillechurchofchrist.org/?page_id=9)  
for a complete video archive of sermons

*To our visitors, we want you to know that we are honored by your being with us today. We welcome any questions you may have. All materials that you see are free of charge and if there is any other information you would like, we will be happy to provide it.*

## Running The Race

This past summer, the world watched athletes from every nation compete against each other in the Olympics. It is impressive to hear about how much training each athlete had gone through to reach the Olympics. The hours they spent working hard, the time they dedicated to their sport, and the discipline to get their bodies into shape – all for the opportunity to win the gold medal.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul compares the hard work runners do with the hard work a Christian should be doing. In verse 25, Paul writes: *“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible”*. Runners work hard and practice self-control in order to be the best runners they can be. And they do it for a crown which fades away, it's only temporary. If that is how these runners train, then how should Christians train for a prize which is incorruptible, a prize that is eternal?

We must take our Christian race seriously and do everything we can to become the best servant we can. Just like runners eat healthy, our diet should consist of daily bible study (2 Timothy 2:15). Just like runners train hard to keep their bodies under control, we must do the same with our bodies, not to yield them to Satan but to God (Romans 6:13). The same dedication and endurance and focus we see with athletes today should be seen in Christians, too.

The Hebrews writer tells us how to get that dedication and endurance and focus. *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:1,2). We cast off everything that hinders us from going to heaven, run with patience, and focus on Jesus. If we do that, then we will

receive our prize – heaven. If we don't, then we will lose it.

There are Christians today who will lose their prize, because they're not running the race as they should. Some think they can run the race without any effort. Some think they don't need to bring their bodies under subjection or self-control (1 Corinthians 9:27). Some start the race, but don't have the patience or endurance to finish it. Some are like Peter when he was walking on the water – they have taken their focus off of Jesus and placed it on what is going on around them (Matthew 14:28-30). The end is the same for all of them – an eternity without God in hell.

Are you running the race as you should? Are you training hard, bringing your body under control, in order to reach the finish line? Or are you running aimlessly and without control? Let's run the race as God wants so *“...that ye may obtain”* (1 Corinthians 9:24).

Philip Steele

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## Prayer Requests

- Joe Staggs
- Teresa Heinz
- Lillian's Brother
- Al Haskell (Kidney)
- Michael Golwitzer (Kidney)
- Marty Stearns (Health)
- McClaine Family
- John Shafer & wife Linda
- Tim Drummond
- Bob Stinnett (Heart Condition)

## Mark Your Calendars

- October 16 – Men's Meeting, Pot-luck Luncheon
- December 30 – Quarterly Seminar