

# TEST YOURSELF

Pastor's Desk – November 15, 2020



**1Co 9:25 KJV** *"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.*

I venture to say that in his early life, Paul must have been very keen on sports! He uses the catchwords for the racer, the boxer, and the gymnast. He had likely stood numerous times, watching the great games held in many Greek-speaking world parts. He understood the long and strenuous training through which contestants had to pass.

The Apostle was running a race for an imperishable reward. He did not doubt his goal and as a result, did not run confusedly. He went straight as an arrow to its mark, and his target was to win as many souls for Christ as possible. To win some, to save some, was his enthusiasm, as he mentions in **1Co 9:22 NKJV** *"to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."*

He needed to correct himself, putting aside much that was harmless in itself and which others could enjoy without reproach (**Rom 14:13-21**). Interestingly, Paul was also engaged in a boxing match; the antagonist - his own body. He understood that spiritual authority existed in his gift in Christ, but to have it, he must first be a spiritual man and command the suppression of his fleshly appetites.

We must practice "self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control." **2Co 13:5 NKJV** says: *"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified."* It is most beneficial to hand over the entirety of our nature to the Master and ask Him to guide, govern, and suggest every day whatever we think, say, or do. It is infinitely better to be Christ-controlled than self-controlled.

Never forget our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, your great Exemplar and Life-giver—the source of all spiritual power. The One, whom we strive to be like.

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos