

Speaker: Adrian Ferguson

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4, 1 Samuel 2:30

Great words “**Father forgive them for they know not what they do**”(Lu 23:34) – words spoken as he died on the cross for sin.

The Olympics are only a week away, they have been 6 years in planning.

One athlete 1924 in Paris, Eric Liddle, won 400m. He would not run on Sunday so he changed to a different race for which he had not trained. He broke WR and got Olympic gold.

**The beginning of the race** – preparation had to be made.

What about the race of life? Not one of us chose how we started our race of life. We are all placed by God. We are all related to one man, Adam.

Rom 5:5-19 – All begun in same way. All have problem, our sin. “**For all have sinned**” (Rom 3:23). We also practice sin. Sin is an absolute abhorrence to God and heavens door is closed because of sin.

You can have control over one aspect of your life – the new birth (John 3 – Nicodemus, top of society was told by the Lord Jesus “**Ye must be born again**”).

When one comes and asks the Lord Jesus to be Saviour and repents of sin they experience new birth.

### **Choose the race**

Eric Liddle had to choose what race he would run in. Eric was to be called Henry but that would have given him initials HEL and his father decided against the mark of hell.

We have the mark of hell because we reject Christ and have no hope, joy and salvation.

In the Bible a man lifts up eyes from hell and asks Abraham to send to warn her brothers not to come here” (Luke 16:23,28) .

The Lord Jesus came from heaven to rescue us from hell.

Eric's father could not chose the way Eric's life would go. It was a personal choice. As a boy Eric committed his life to Christ. He bowed the knee in repentance and became a sinner saved by grace. He chose Christ as His Saviour.

All make a choice – accept or reject Christ.

Why run race of life without Christ?

At end of life is wrath and judgment upon sin.

### **Hurdles in race**

As Eric was young he was ill and told he would not run again. God was gracious and kind to him.

Life for a christian is full of hurdles.

In archery sin is a miss of the target. So too in our life. We are far short of God's life and no matter where the hurdle lies it cannot be broken by us.

“[Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanseth us from all sin](#)” (1 John 1:7).

How can man and God be joined together? Only one way – the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you repent of your sin the gap will be passed in the Lord Jesus Christ. “[the mediator between God and man](#)” (1 Tim. 2:5).

3 great hurdles to the christian life.

Hurdle of the world - “[Looking unto Jesus](#)” (Heb. 12:2). “[Set affection on things above](#)” (Col. 3:1).

Peter took eyes of Christ and began to sink(Matt. 14:30).

Hurdle of the flesh – need to lay aside things that drag back to the world.

Hurdle of the devil – Evil, vile “[Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world](#)” (1 John 4:4). The Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the wicked one.

Eric Liddle ran the race and got the prize.

### **Decisions on race**

Eric Liddle decided the Lord would come first and he wouldn't run on Sunday. Have you made the decision to trust Christ?

Becoming a christian is a commitment to Christ, repentance and faith in Him. Have you made Him everything in your life? If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.

Joshua stood before the people of Israel (Josh 24:15) “[choose you this day whom ye will serve](#)”.

### **Winning the race**

Winning was not about the plaudits of men. Soon after the Olympics he left all behind and went off to be a missionary in China. Eric's life was cut short. He had a brain tumour. In a prisoner of war camp he wrote to his wife, few weeks later he had passed away. For every child of God who runs race and enters presence of God “[Well done good and faithful servant](#)” (Matt. 25:21).

Eternity is not about us and a crown but Him and a crown. “[Thou art worthy..](#)” (Rev. 5:8)

Life short, eternity sure. How will you finish the race?

“[Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God](#)” (John 3:3)

Eric Liddle is in heaven not because he won an Olympic medal but because he trusted Christ as Saviour.