

self in the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier." Paul's motto was "this one thing I do," he subordinated all things to the furtherance of the gospel and to the winning of the approval of Christ. And if Timothy would please Him who had called him he must give an undivided heart to his sacred calling. The Apostle was anxious that his beloved son in the faith should concentrate all his energies on the great work of his ministry. He does not appear to have considered Timothy deficient in devotion. In writing to the Philippians he says: Chapter 2: 19 22, "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you. . . . For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel." This is surely high praise. Paul seems to say: "You have done well in the past. You have been a self-sacrificing servant of Christ. Continue in the same course. See that you do not weary in well-doing."

3. In the next place the figure of the athlete is used. He "contends in the games with hope of success only as he acts in accordance with the rules of the contest,—giving up all things for, and subordinating all things to the attain-

ment of the end." The games celebrated at Ephesus in the month of May were famous and attended by competitors and spectators from the neighboring cities. Paul and Timothy were both doubtless familiar with these games. They knew that great honor fell not only to individuals winning the coveted crowns but also to the cities from which the successful competitors came. The regulations to be observed by those who contended for the prizes, throughout their preparation and in the contest, were severe. The greatest self-denial and the most strenuous efforts were necessary in order to success. In 1 cor. 9: 24, and following verses there is a striking allusion to the Grecian games, "know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things..... But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection."

Paul had run in this race and was now near its triumphant close. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown." The course he had himself taken and which he recommended to Timothy had led to stripes and imprisonment, and was about to end in a cruel death at the hands of the imperial power. But it was to be the death of a martyr, the glorious reward would be bestowed on him by the Lord Himself.