

# Think & Believe

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## Running the Race – Dodging the Bombs

by *Dave Nutting*

The starting gun fires, the cross-country race begins. Ahead of the runners are steep hills, narrow valleys and dense forests. However, this isn't an ordinary race. There are snipers on the ridges shooting at the runners, minefields along the way, and hurdles to jump with coiled razor wire on top. In the forest there are snares, and overhead, squadrons of bombers are dropping bombs on the runners.

No, this isn't an ordinary race. It is the race of life all of us as Christians want to win. We want to get to the finish line! The Apostle Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (II Timothy. 4:7, NKJV) Think of the bombs that were being dropped on him: persecutions, torture, stoning, lashings, shipwrecks, etc.

Today's "bombs" are usually not physical, at least not here in the United States of America, but nonetheless, they are deadly for the spiritual life. Watch out for the sniper on the ridge. He is shooting fiery darts: "Evolution is a fact." "You can't trust the Bible." Boom! A runner falls!

Look carefully at the razors on the wire: "Tolerance!" "Truth is relative." "Legalism!" Runners are cut and bleeding trying to get over these hurdles. Other runners are hanging upside down from the trees caught by the snares that read: "If evolution is true, who cares what we do?" "Drugs,

sex, alcohol – anything goes."

Take cover! Bombs drop from the airplanes: "Evolution is science. Creation is religious myth!" KA-VOOOOOM – and another bunch of already shell-shocked students are taken out of the race.

A few do make it to the finish line, but many are wounded and limping. Only a handful finish well, running strong.

Is this case overstated? Maybe it's not. Years ago, I watched a video by Bill Gothard, the founder of a major youth ministry. He said that 85% of the young people from **evangelical** church homes who attend public education beginning in kindergarten have nothing to do with the church by the time they graduate from college. A recent church report stated that in Oregon the number was as high as 90%.

**So what do you do?** First, tell your children more than, "Just believe because the Bible says ..." Why? It's because in this so-called religiously neutral environment, students are being taught to laugh at

the Bible, to be "tolerant" of all other views, and to conform to keep the peace. Students don't hear the other side since Christian teachers' hands are tied – captive to the misapplication of "separation of Church and State." Meanwhile the opponents of Christianity hammer away, dropping the bombs, firing the darts, and setting the snares, with little Christian voice to oppose.

**Christian parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends – it is up to you.** Help your kids finish well. Don't leave it to others. Yes, teach your children to believe the Bible and honor the Living Word, but also give them the reasons why. Give them ammunition in this battle. Read top quality books defending the reliability of Scripture. Equip them with creation books and top quality creation videos.

Take them to, or even sponsor a creation seminar yourself! Teach them not to "be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of their

minds" (Romans 12:2) – to stand firmly on the Word even if they must stand alone. Teach them also to reach out and impact others rather than watch them get torn up in this race. You **can** make a difference! 



