

## Thought for the Day 3rd August - John Reed

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

As you may have gathered, I like sport. One of the sports that I follow is the motor racing. And I woke up this morning to the news that Lewis Hamilton has driven his Mercedes to yet another win, this time a record seventh British Grand Prix.<sup>1</sup> Now, there is nothing remarkable in Hamilton winning, or Mercedes winning, since they have been the dominant car and driver for the past several seasons. What was remarkable about this one was that Hamilton suffered a puncture on the last lap, and limped to the line “with his heart in his mouth, a prayer on his lips and three wheels on his car,” with Red Bull’s Max Verstappen rapidly closing the gap between them.

Have you ever found yourself limping along, just hoping to get to the finishing line? I must confess that sometimes during this COVID-19 pandemic it feels like we’re all limping along hampered by more than a flat tyre.

The Bible often likens the Christian life to a race. So Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25:

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*

And the writer to the Hebrews says in Hebrews 12:1:

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us ...*

Sometimes, we struggle. So, for example, Galatians 5:7:

*You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?*

Paul himself, nearing the end of his life, writes to his young friend Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6-8:

*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

Whether you’re limping or striding out strongly, may you continue doggedly towards the finish line this week.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/sport/motorsport/hamilton-wins-record-seventh-british-gp-despite-late-puncture-20200803-p55hva.html#:~:text=By%20Alan%20Baldwin&text=Silverstone%3A%20A%20lucky%20Lewis%20Hamilton,last%20lap%20puncture%20on%20Sunday>.