



27 December 2020

ARE YOU RESOLVED!

Hebrews 12:1-4
Philippians 3:1-16; Revelation 3:14-22

Therefore . . . (Hebrews 12:1)

- This word takes us back to chapter 10 verses 35-39.
- The Holy Spirit moved the writer to write chapter 11 to show examples of **persevering** faith to encourage the readers of this letter and us! (Rom 15:4)

The Race (Hebrews 12:1)

- God tells us that we are in a **race**. (v. 1)
 - To be in the race is to be running.
 - There are NO RESTS; NO BREAKS; NO PAUSES – once someone sits down he is no longer “racing.”
 - It is not an **easy** race. The Greek word for “race” here is ἀγών *agon* (ag-one) from this word we get *agony*. This Greek word is also translated “conflict”; “fight”; and “contention”.
 - Here and throughout the New Testament we are instructed that there really isn’t anything **easy** about the Christian walk (run).
 - Consider God’s “WOE” pronounce on those “at ease” and those who “feel secure” in Amos 6:1, Revelation 3:14-22, Zephaniah 1:12
 - It is an **appointed** race – one **set before us** to run. God **determines** the course – not us. We do not choose where the race goes – we are to run the charted course.
 - God tells us that we are to run this race as **to win the race**. (1 Cor 9:24-27)
 - Run as if there is only one winner.
 - Runners are under **strict training**.
 - They have a **special diet**.
 - The Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - Doing the will of God. (John 4:34)
 - Job: Word more important than necessary food. (Job 23:12)
- David: Desired God’s Word more than gold. (Psalm 19:10; 119:127)
- Jeremiah: God’s Word was “the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” (Jeremiah 15:16)

- They **exercise hard**.
 - 1 Timothy 4:8-9 – they *pursue* godliness.
 - They **“do”** in order to get fit - they do not only talk about getting into shape – they *get* in shape by doing. 1 Samuel 15:22
- God tells us that the race is long and we must run with **patience** – with **endurance**. (v. 1)
 - ὑπομονή *hupomone* {hoop-om-on-ay} – steadfastness, constancy, endurance; in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings; patient during, sustaining, perseverance. **NEVER GIVES UP! NEVER QUIT!**
 - We must not grow **weary** – in due time we will reap our reward. (Gal 6:9)
- God tells us that we must run **according to the rules**. (2 Timothy 2:5)
 - To run according to the rules one must **know** the rules.
 - To run **not** according to the rules is to **disqualify** oneself. (1 Cor. 9:27; Jeremiah 6:30)
 - We must believe **as the Scripture says** (John 7:38)– not what we **think** Scripture says. See John 2:23-25 where Christ rejectED those who “believed” in Him!

Be Encouraged by Other Winners (Hebrews 12:1)

- *the great cloud of witnesses* (v. 1) – see Hebrews 11.
- They are **not** spectators – they are **witnesses**.
- They are bearing witness that God can see us through.
- These are *heroes of the faith* that we can learn from. (Romans 15:4)

Lay Aside Every Weight (Hebrews 12:1)

- Let us lay aside **every** weight (sin) or good thing that prevents us from running the race **to win**.
- God tells us to **examine** ourselves. (2 Corinthians 13:5-6; 2 Peter 1:10)
- Innocent things can weigh us down from running our course.
 - Anything that diverts our attention, reduces our enthusiasm for the things of God, takes away our energy . . . etc.
- Even “small” sins “besets” (“to **entangle**”; “to box in”; “to surround”; “to plague” etc.) us.
 - Even the sin of **UNBELIEF** in the promises and word of God which is most likely **“the”** sin the writer is speaking of.
- Paul tells us through the Holy Spirit to “make **no provision** for the flesh . . .” Romans 13:14
- Good things will prevent us from having the best things!
 - Family: Matthew 10:37

LOOK to Jesus

- “LOOKING”
 - ἀφοράω aphorao {af-or-ah'-o} - “to turn one’s eyes away from other things and **fix** them on something. (Present tense; active voice)
- “JESUS” His human name is used to emphasize His humanity!
 - GOD become FLESH! (John 1:14; Gal 4:4; Philip 2:7-8; 1 Tim. 3:16)
 - HE became one of US! (Heb. 2:14-18; 4:15)
- We are **commanded** to FIX our eyes on HIM!
 - Isaiah 45:22; 26:3-4
 - He is coming for those whose eyes are fixed on Him. (Hebrews 9:28)
 - He pronounces WOE on those who DO NOT look to Him. (Isaiah 31:1)

Author and Finisher of our Faith

- He **is** the **Author and Finisher** of our faith. (See Hebrews 6:19-20)
 - **CAPTAIN**: ἀρχηγός archegos {ar-khay-gos'} also translated: AUTHOR, FOUNDER, PRINCE, PATHFINDER, PIONEER, SOURCE – one who takes the lead for others to follow by his example.
 - **AUTHOR**: one who writes the book from the beginning to the end!!!!
 - **CAPTAIN**: leads his soldiers by being IN FRONT of them and inspiring them by HIS acts of bravery and courage.
 - **PIONEER**: one who blazes (cuts) a trail for others to follow.
 - **ONE WHO GOES BEFORE**: Christ, our CAPTAIN, has gone before us.

The LIFE of FAITH

- Christ **lived** a **life** of **faith**.
- What is a **LIFE** of **FAITH**:
 - ① A life in **complete dependence** upon God. (Prov 3:5-6; John 6:57; Psalm 22:8)
 - ② A life lived in **fellowship and communication** with God. Psalm 16:8; John 8:29; Psalm 22:10; Mark 1:35
 - ③ A life lived in **obedience to God (the Word of God)**. John 8:29; 15:10; Luke 2:49
 - ④ A life lived in **assurance in the unseen future**. “My times are in Your hands!” – Psalm 31:15 – Meditate on John 3:13.

DEPENDENCE – TRUST – SUBMISSION

Looking to Our Example (Hebrews 12:2)

- “for the JOY set before Him”: JOY that awaited Him! JOY in dependence, trust and submission – **knowing** the reward that awaited Him!
 - Paul **pressed** forward to the reward! Philippians 3:14
- “He **endured** the Cross!” See John 18:11 – and then He commanded His followers to “**follow**” His steps. (Luke 9:23; 1 Peter 2:21; Matthew 16:24)
 - He **endured** for the GLORY OF GOD!

→ He **endured** for **OTHERS!**

→ HE DID NOT RUN HIS “RACE” FOR HIMSELF!

→ He did not look BACK! (Luke 9:62; Philippians 3:12-14)

- “despising the shame” – He **hated** anything that might hinder Him. He set His face to Jerusalem to die! (Luke 9:51; Isaiah 50:7)
 - He spoke strongly against anyone who would get in His way! (Matthew 16:21-24)
- “has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”
 - HIS REST: “sat down” – His race finished – His work completed! (John 4:34; 17:4; 19:30) – We have WORK to do! (Ephesians 2:10)
 - HIS REWARD: “at the right hand of the throne of God” – A place of **honour, authority, and rule!** He is the **sovereign** Lord!
 - A place of **judgment**. Everyone **must** answer to Him! (John 5:22; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Romans 2:16; 2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
- These are the **same** rewards for us!
 - We are promised eternal **rest!** (Revelation 14:13)
 - We will have a seat on the throne of God. (Revelation 3:21; Ephesians 2:6)
 - We will **rule** with Christ. (Revelation 2:26-27)
 - We will judge angels. (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

Consider Jesus (vv. 3-4)

- ἀναλογίζομαι analogizomai {an-al-og-id'-zom-ah-ee} – from a mathematical term meaning “proportion” – “to compute or calculate by comparing things together in their due proportion”; “to consider” takes time and effort!
- **ONE CANNOT CONSIDER CHRIST WITHOUT INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES.** (John 7:38)
- **ONE CANNOT FOLLOW CHRIST’S FOOTSTEPS WITHOUT INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES THAT OUTLINE THOSE FOOTSTEPS.**
- **COMPARE OUR SUFFERING WITH THAT OF CHRIST!!**
 - See 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Philippians 2:4-5
 - See Jesus’ early life described in Psalm 88:15
 - Consider His humiliation and suffering and our suffering will look more and more insignificant!
- “lest you become weary **and** discouraged in your minds”
 - There is NO “**and**” in the Greek – we will grow weary when we become discouraged in our minds!
- Proverbs 24:10 – **THINK HARD ABOUT THIS VERSE!**
- We are called on **not to faint!** (In prayer – Luke 18:1; in well doing – Galatians 6:9)
- **“you have not yet resisted to bloodshed against sin”**
 - When Jeremiah complained how hard his persecution was God answered with – “you haven’t seen anything yet!” – Jeremiah 12:5