
PASTOR'S CORNER

Heb 12:1

As Christians in the race that is laid before us let us remember to lay aside all things that would slow us down in this end time revival.

1. This race is the lifelong test of faith in this world.

Heb 10:23

- Now like never before we must let our profession known before all humanity.
- V 24 in order to be effective in this perilous hour, we must not be a hindrance to our brother and sisters. Let us purpose in our hearts to deeply consider one another to be an encourager to the others in this race and to everyone we meet to join the race of Faith and to run with all of our heart toward the prize of our high calling.
- Let us live (Run) for Jesus Christ in such a way that our life will provoke others unto love and to good works:
- V25 In that last days we should must put forth the greatest effort possible to assembling of ourselves together, in the house of The Lord, to encourage one another to stay in this race that laid before us.

A. The day of Christ's return for the His faithful Saints is rapidly approaching.

- As it does, we will face many spiritual trials and persecutions, and much doctrinal deception.
- We must meet together regularly in order to encourage one another to hold fast to Christ and the apostolic faith of the new covenant.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. KJV

- This verse opens with a very base principle

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- This fundamental principle is so basic and such a given in the minds of the saint of God that we forget that it is even there.
 - We fail to act upon it so often because we forget that it even exists.
 - **38 Now the just shall live by faith:** That is what we shall (MUST)do.

If you ever wonder what you are going to do in a given situation:

- Let me help you with that: If you desire to remain a just person in the eyes of God?

Then you are going to have to live each day by faith.

Now the just shall live by faith: This fundamental principle, affirmed four times in Scripture.

- Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. KJV
- Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. KJV
- Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.KJV
- Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. KJV

This fundamental principle: if followed and we refuse to draw away from it, this principle will govern our relationship with Jesus and will walk us through the process of sanctification.

- In other words we will continually be in a state of becoming what God has called us to be.
- For Anyone who deliberately draws back from the saving grace or the saving faith of God and deliberately keeps on sinning, God “shall have no pleasure in that person” and that person will incur eternal damnation.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This race is the lifelong test of faith in this world.

a. We must run this race “With Patience”.

Patience is defined as having the capacity, habit or fact of being long suffering.

- This race is tuff and will require patience for the long haul.
- We must endure unto the end.
- 1 Tim 6:12 Fight **the** good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

b. We must run this race With Perseverance

- Perseverance is the quality that allows one to continue trying to live for God even though everything around you says to quit.

c. And With Endurance- Now endurance includes patience and Perseverance.

- Because it means we must continue to be men and women of faith even though great difficulty may last a very long time.
- Endurance is the quality of enduring difficulties, hardships, and other sufferings as long as needed.

Phil 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
KJV

We must run this race “With Patience, Perseverance, and Endurance”.

- The way of victory is the same as that of the saints in Heb. Chapter 11 – they pressed on to the finish line.
- **Heb 6:11** And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:
- 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. KJV
- **1 Cor 9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. KJV

2. The Race Must be Run By Laying Aside Every Excess Weight.

- This race is going to be won by those who are willing to lay down the sins that impede or slow us down.

a. We must develop “A Fixation On Jesus”.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of our faith;
- **Not everywhere else.**
- “Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,”

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- Jesus viewed it as a joy to save us even though it included dying on The cross.
 - We are going to have to see it as a joy to be saved by Him even though it means taking up our cross and following Him.
 - If we are going to follow Jesus in this busy, crazy, chaotic world we must fix our eyes, our affection, hearts and lives upon Jesus and never let anything distract us from Him.

b. Persevering Obedience Heb. 12:1-4

- He set the example of obedience in perseverance.

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
- 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. KJV

3. The Greatest Peril Of All Time is probably not what the majority believe it is.

The greatest peril of all time is not going to be discussed on the six o'clock news.

Although the greatest peril of all time is basically what generates the news.

The Greatest Peril Of All Time is sin!!!

- Now we live in such a poor spiritual state most of the time where we are not even conscious of this fact.
- We think about every think as being our problem and dreaded enemy.

We can overcome against sin if we keep the faith.

- Sin is a hideous creature but it does not have to be an over powering force.
- If we keep the faith.
- Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;
17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? KJV

In the midst of it all Paul kept the faith and run his race to win Jesus as his prize.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. KJV

- He didn't see any of his hardships as a reason to quit.

2 Cor 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. KJV

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. KJV

1 John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. KJV

c. That Country From Whence We Came

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. KJV