

## Run The Race With Endurance

### Introduction and Review

- Hebrews was written to believers who began their Christian journey with zeal & faithfulness, but had become discouraged, unfaithful & uncommitted. **They needed encouragement.**
- Hebrews 11 used lives of OT believers to encourage these....
- We studied the lives of men and women, adults & young people that endured severe trials & testing by faith to please God.
- We learned that when we live by faith & experience successes or failures in life, nothing compares to the eternal promise in Jesus!

### I. Running The Race (v. 1)

#### A. The witnesses

*The Christian life is portrayed as a race involving witnesses. A witness (μάρτυς) is someone who testifies or affirms the truth or facts. The believers in ch. 11 witness or testify to the readers that it is indeed possible to endure all circumstances of life by faith – real people provide real motivation. **The witnesses say that it can be done!***

#### B. The hindrances

*Bulky weight, loose items & impediments hinder a runner in a race. Likewise Christians may have sinful & non-sinful problems that hinder our spiritual progress. Sin (ἁμαρτία) is an action contrary to the revealed will of God & this will certainly hinder our spiritual progress. Non-sinful problems also distract us & hinder our progress – immaturity, habits, etc. **Believers must carefully discern these distractions & sins in our lives by the help of the HS...** Then by the help of the HS we must lay them aside & leave them alone. **The hindrances can be overcome!***

#### C. The race

*Race (ἀγών) means a contest or struggle against opposition. The race is a realistic description of the Christian life that is demanding, agonizing & painful. God Himself has chosen the particular race or lifestyle for every Christian (set before us) & He knows which lifestyle is best for each Christian –*

*the trials, difficulties, agony, etc. is customized for each Christian! “let us run with endurance” means that God expects us to finish the race (Mt. 10:22; 2Tim. 2:12; 4:7). **The race can be won!** Summarize all 3 – Witnesses, etc.*

### II. Looking To Jesus (v. 2)

*Distractions & hindrances are a result of looking at the wrong thing while trying to run – leads to discouragement, fear, worry... (Mt. 14:30).*

#### A. Who He is

*Jesus is described in reference to our faith: founder & perfecter; originator & finisher. **He provides everyone faith from beginning to end.** Noah, Abraham & Sarah might inspire us to live by faith, but they got that faith from Jesus. He is the source of faith for everyone! **LOOK AT WHO HE IS!!!***

#### B. What He did

*Jesus willingly submitted to the lifestyle that the Father chose for Him – “set before Him” (Jn. 6:38; Lk. 22:42). He willingly submitted to rejection, slander, hatred, false arrest, trial, beating, scourging, crucifixion & death – “the shame” & “the cross”. He submitted & **endured** “for the joy” or “in order to obtain the joy” that was ordained in His future – the resurrection, ascension & eternal glory! “**despising the shame**” means that shame in this world could not compare to the joy ahead. Again Moses, Rahab & David might inspire us to live by faith, but Jesus is the perfect example of living by faith & trusting the Father. **LOOK AT WHAT HE DID!!!***

## CONCLUSION

So then my brothers & sisters the message from these two verses appears to be fairly straight forward & clear. The Christian life is portrayed as a race & we are exhorted to run this race with endurance. Do you feel like you are growing & progressing in your Christian life? Do you think God is pleased with your growth & progress? Do you feel distracted, stuck or hindered because of some serious problem, unbelief, fear, worry, grief, discouragement, unforgiveness, jealousy, etc.? If you find yourself distracted or hindered today, this text gives us some remedies: 1) the HS will help you identify the distraction or hindrance, 2) the HS will help you repent & break free from the hindrance, 3) the HS will help you willingly accept the lifestyle that God Himself has chosen for you, and 4) the HS will help you find real encouragement in the life of Jesus Christ who is the Perfect Motivator! **God Himself has chosen everyone's lot (lifestyle) here. Your lifestyle is customized for you & you are spiritually equipped to persevere until the end of your race (life). Therefore wake up every day thinking about the joy in your eternal future...**

If you are not a Christian, you are not in the race yet. But you are never too young or too old to get in this Christian race. You can get in this race right now, today. Believe in Jesus & be saved right now. Believe in Jesus & be set free to run right now. Believe in Jesus & start this race that ends in heaven. Only believe...

SUBJECT: [Run The Race With Endurance](#)

TEXT: [Heb. 12:1-2](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [September 25, 2011](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [969](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX4](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)