
Run for Your Life

Hebrews 12:1-3

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, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Sermon Outline:

Hebrews 12:1-3 illustrates the unity of God's plan of salvation in the Old and New Covenants. We are one with the "great cloud of witnesses" described in chapter 11, all enjoying the great salvation won by the unique sacrifice of Jesus. We confidently run a race of faith with the assurance that Jesus has won the victory for us all. Amen!

- The question for us as the people of God is not "will I finish the race" but "how"?
- Jesus has not lost one of those for whom He died.
- There is a permanent place for us among the witnesses; therefore, we must run our race with perseverance.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the great cloud of witnesses surrounding us give us hope to run our race?
2. How does Jesus' victory over sin and death give us confidence as we run our race?
3. How does the fact that Jesus has endured hostility as a man give us comfort as we run our race?
4. How does looking to Jesus as we run our race allow us to run with perseverance?

Going Deeper

1. The passage encourages us to "lay aside every weight and sin." What might be weights or sins in your own life that deter you from running the race to the end?
2. The passage also calls us to look to Jesus as we run. What other things often draw our focus? Why is a focus on Jesus better?