

The Promise
"Run...with endurance"
Hebrews 12:1-2
Sunday, February 5, 2012

INTRODUCTION

"LET US RUN..."

1. Run with the crowd in view

1. "Witnesses" - those who bear testimony, particularly in a judicial setting (**10:28**) -- it also carries the nuance of "martyr"
 1. Extent of encouragement
 2. They witness and are a witness
 3. Consistency for the audience
2. They don't really cheer us on, as if in an arena or stadium. It's a long, long race.

2. Run without excess baggage

1. Weight simply means "burden / impediment"
 1. Clothing (not unlike "girding up your loins" for battle)
 2. Excess weight
 3. The more of this world you add to your life, the less able you will be to run well. You may finish the race, showing God's gracious work of salvation, but you will be injured, chaffed, struggling.
 4. Look, this can only be legalistic if you have the view of the false teachers in this book - specifically, that you believe that you can work

with Jesus to secure your own salvation. None of that!

5. I want you to understand that this is where I am desperately examining my life as well
6. Consider the amount of TV and movies you watch -- what could you do with that time?
7. How much do you spend on worldly goods, when you could save up for an adoption, or help feel the poor?

2. Sin is *humartia* which includes the sinfulness as well as the consequences of sin (i.e. guilt)

1. "Sin"
2. No particular sin, just sin itself
 1. Cease from it. Gouge out the medium.
Wage war on this...
 2. WHY?

3. Run with endurance

1. Running with "endurance" - this means a "cheerful constancy"
2. This is the greater view of our overall pursuit
3. This is the point of the text

4. Run with Christ in view

1. The nature of the race is seen in the life of Jesus.
 1. "Looking to Jesus" is to consider attentively
 2. "the founder" - He is the "prince, ruler, originator" of our faith
 3. "perfecter" - just what it sounds like...the "consummator, completer, finisher"
 4. He is the consummate example

2. What did His race look like?
 1. “endured the cross”
 2. Christ despised the shame
 1. **Deuteronomy 21:22-23**
 2. Christ was treated as a criminal
 3. Christ's pleasure and joy is the unhindered fellowship with the father.
 1. **Hebrews 1:13**
 2. **Psalm 110:1**
 3. **F.F. Bruce**, *“He is seated at the right hand of God, and He is still there.”*

5. Prepare your run

1. First of all, understand that you are a runner, and runners run
2. Next, saturate with the Scriptures (Discover the cloud of witnesses and the nature of Christ's work)
3. Lay aside weight
4. Lay aside sin
5. Look at the race before you
6. Look to Christ
 1. Example
 2. Author
 3. Perfecter
 4. Victor