

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Christ Supreme in All Things
May 21, 2023 | "Finish the Race" | **Hebrews 12:1-3**

1) In light of the examples of _____, finish the race of life in faith (12:1)

a. Lay aside any _____

b. Press on with _____

2) In light of the example of _____, finish the race of life in faith (12:2-3)

a. Prevail through _____

b. Battle against _____

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How does the author of Hebrews connect the OT saints of Hebrews 11 with the message of Hebrews 12:1-3? In his metaphor of running a race, who are the runners in verse 1? Who are the surrounding witnesses? What are the hindrances that hold runners back? What does finishing the race mean?

In 12:2, Jesus is called "the founder and perfecter of our faith." How is Jesus the founder of our faith? How is he the perfecter? How do Jesus's roles as founder and perfecter spur us on in our race? Why do we look to Jesus (12:2) and consider Jesus (12:3)?

GET PERSONAL

Hebrews tells us to lay aside every weight that hinders us in our race. This includes categories of both sinful hindrances and non-sinful hindrances. What are some non-sinful habits in your life that might be weighing you down in your race? Is it okay to be distracted or entertained by non-sinful interests in this world? How do you know when those non-sinful things become hindrances?

Why does the author of Hebrews say that sin clings closely to us? What are some sins that are clinging closely to you and keeping you from running effectively for Christ? How do you go about getting unstuck and disentangled from those sins?

How does considering Jesus (12:3) help us with discouragement and faintheartedness? Are you ever tempted to give up or bail it in as a Christian? How does Jesus's example inspire and propel us in faith?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a few moments to meditate on the statement "endured the cross" (12:2) and "endured from sinners such hostility against himself" (12:3). Read Philippians 2:5-11. How did Jesus humble himself in the incarnation? How did he humble himself at crucifixion? How was Jesus's love demonstrated for us in Hebrews 12:2-3 and Philippians 2:5-11? How does this motivate us in the way we love others and live our lives? Read the following article entitled "The Wrath of God was Satisfied" by Jon Bloom to help you with these questions:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-wrath-of-god-was-satisfied>

Also read through the lyrics of "In Christ Alone" by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty:
<https://www.stuarttownend.co.uk/song/in-christ-alone/>

ADVANCED QUESTION

Look up all the athletic metaphors used in the NT for the Christian life (e.g. Acts 20:24; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Gal 2:2; 5:7; Phil 2:16; Col 1:29; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7; Heb 12:1-3). What correlations are there between athletics and the Christian life? Why do the NT authors (primarily Paul) use this metaphor so frequently? What can we learn from this on how to use illustrations to illustrate the Christian life?