

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Christ Supreme in All Things
June 11, 2023 | "Holy Perseverance" | **Hebrews 12:12-17**

As members of Christ's community, God calls us to ...

- 1) Respond to his discipline with _____
(12:12-13)
- 2) Pursue harmony and holiness with _____
(12:14)
- 3) Stave off sin in the community of faith with _____
(12:15-17)

Three enemies of "Holy Perseverance"

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Hebrews 12:12-14. How do these verses relate to the previous verses in 12:1-11? How should we respond to God's discipline in our lives as we are running the Christian race? How do we "make straight paths" for our feet? What obstacles are currently on your path, tripping you up?

The author tells his audience to strive for peace with everyone. Is it possible to be at peace with everyone? What did Jesus say about peace and peacemakers? How did Jesus show us how to strive for peace with others? Did Jesus pursue peace at any price? How might a "root of bitterness" in the Christian community destroy peace? Is there a difference between peace-keeping and peace-making?

What does the author mean when he says without holiness no one will see the Lord? Doesn't God save us while we are in an unholy state? Why should we then strive for holiness? Why would holiness in the life of a Christian be a requirement for seeing God? How does one become holy?

GET PERSONAL

Define the term "holy perseverance." How has this been demonstrated in your life? Give some examples. Consider the three enemies of holy perseverance. How do you combat these as a Christian? Is this an individual battle or a communal battle?

Have apathy, acrimony, or sinful appetites ever caused division in your church? How was it addressed? Have you seen sexual immorality tolerated, spreading unhealthiness in a church? What role does the average church-goer have in addressing and confronting these matters? What role do church leaders have? What Scriptures in the NT address this?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a moment to read and pray through this passage from start to finish. Ask the Lord for perseverance in your Christian race. Ask God to surround you with faithful fellow runners to race alongside of. Pray for God to help you be a man or woman of peace. Ask God to make you a man or woman of holiness. Ask God to show you how to proactively pursue that for yourself and your Christian community. After a time of prayer, write out two or three "action steps" that will help you to be more obedient to this passage.