

Sunday Sermon Outline

The Race of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-2

- Let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us;
- Let us run with the endurance the race that is set before us;
- Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

...chapter 12 begins with the word "Therefore", looking back to the "heroes of the faith"...they had a belief in what God said. These heroes expected God to work in their lives, work His plan.

They ran the race expecting God to work and were devoted to God's work.

James 2:18-26

..."You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

...Just envision what the rest of your life looks like...what does the rest of your life look like?

When I ran in high school and college, I learned...there are three important aspects to running...

1. First when you take off, you don't want to start too fast or go too slow;
2. Then in the middle of the race, when you are in your pace, your legs begin to feel it and is this all worth it,
3. And then the last half lap, can you sprint to the finish

The writer of Hebrews tells us...let us throw off every weight that hinders...the right preparation...we have to follow the rules. The first rule in Greece is that you had to prove that you were a citizen. Are you a citizen of heaven?

The next rule was that they needed to prove that they had trained for the last 10 months? Are we devoted to doing God's will? Are we looking at winning the race?

We sometimes what to take shortcuts, we don't want to train; we don't have the discipline...that is all a part of the race that we are running. What weighs us down?

So often we have to put down our own self-confidence in the flesh, our natural abilities... your strength instead of mine.

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2 Timothy 2:3

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

As we grow older, we often talk about the past, how God blessed this or that, but we are still in the race...

When we are out of this world, the race is over...it is all about endurance, it is a long marathon and it does not stop until we see the Lord face to face...

Philippians 3...

Sin does three things in the believer's lives...

1. Corrupts everyone it touches;
2. Controls us;
3. Changes your life, changes your focus, it takes you out of the race.

Patience or endurance is important, let us run is a command to keep on running, but with endurance.

Ephesians 2:10...good works that God prepared in advance for us to do.

God has race just for you, just for me. The race of expectant faith. The race that is marked out for us (Heb 11).

Motivation...let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. He showed His faith, His endurance; He was faithful to the end. His resurrection proved His faithfulness.

How about all the Old Testament characters that are not mentioned in Heb 11 "Hall of Faith", they did not finish the race. We need to focus on Jesus, He is our example.

But there is a promise at the end, a reward, for everyone looking for the appearing of Jesus Christ...we are going to persevere, we are going to finish.

Hebrews 11:29 These saints had not seen the promise, they were still looking forward.