

Hebrews 12.1-4

Take a Long Look!

When Our Boys Young Teens visited Louvre Museum, Paris
 Houses some Greatest TREASURES of Art in Entire WORLD
 So CULTURE Deficient Only Knew ONE Name > MONA LISA
 Raced thru Halls / Ignore Wonders on Walls / See Young Lady's Smile!

Writer to Hebrews > Raced thru 39 books of OT in Ch 11 > Get to BEST
 WRITER Probably Running OUT of Papyrus > Urges LOOK to Jesus!
 GREATEST HERO of Faith / Most NOBLE EXAMPLE > Lord JESUS!

1. Challenges to our Walk with God

SPORT often used Theme BIBLE > Runners in Ancient GAMES

v. 1 "let us also lay aside weight, and sin which clings so closely and run with endurance" > Got
 Weights & Sins > We NEED POWER & PURITY

a. We Need Power: let us also lay aside every weight

Runners in Ancient OLYMPICS Trained wearing WEIGHTS

When Competed in GAMES – Took off Weights > CLOTHES too! T.M.I.

Like BASEBALL Batter in On-Deck Circle > Swings WEIGHTED Bat

Time to Step into Batter's Box > Whips that LIGHTENED Bat Around

Hinderance something NOT the BEST > Maybe NOT BAD, Not SIN?

What GETS in the Way of Your Service for King Jesus? You KNOW

Obstacles to Spiritual Fruitfulness > Rid Life of Weight / Hinderances

Friendship, Association, Hobby, Event, Place, Pleasure, Honor

Something BAD Happened to YOU Somewhere – Don't GO There

Wanna WIN Race > Save few SECONDS if TAKE It Off

Not Because HAVE TO > Mature Faith in Jesus says **"I want to!"**

Entangles > Nothing in Bible AGAINST Golf, Movies, Grandchildren

Even GOOD Things can become MORE Important THAN Jesus

East African Revival – Meetings Brothers/Sisters – Share and Pray

“Walk in Light” > House: No Roof and No Walls > Open God / Man

Uganda > Meeting of Brothers // VILLAGE Man “Are SOCKS Sinful?!”

BALANCE / Priority – Need Trusted Friends to Pray / Honest Share

Meet at Church > Pray for Eachother > Go Deeper > Sunday / Wednesday

People ASK “what’s wrong with this?” / “it is OK for me to do!”

It is LEGAL! – Evil World DECREED it LEGAL – Must be OK!

Gov’t says KILL Babies – SUICIDE – Gay Marriage – Marijuana

STANDARD is Not SOCIETY > Stand is SCRIPTURE

TRIANGLE > Think thru ETHICAL Questions / Not in Bible

STANDARD / Word of God

MOTIVE / LOVE of God

GOAL / GLORY of God

Think Biblically > Will this make me MORE like Jesus?

Will I LOVE God More? Serve more Faithfully? More Devoted?

Could I REACH More People? Bear More FRUIT for Kingdom?

If EYE causes Sin GOUGE Out / If HAND causes Sin CUT it Off

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor...So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. 1 Corinthians 10.23-33

b. We Need Purity: v. 1 “and sin which clings so closely”

v 4 “in your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to shedding blood”

SPECIFIC Sin Not Mentioned > Hebrews: Ongoing Battle w/ UNBELIEF

Many Xtians live in UNBELIEF > Spend Time, Money, Think About

Words “BY FAITH” written 21 X’s in Chapter 11

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day...that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3.12-14

Doesn’t Take LONG for Good People to FALL AWAY

DAVID > Man after God’s heart > Allowed Heart to Lust > Bathsheba

SIN > Family Chaos > Whole KINGDOM into CRISIS

Was RUNNING Brilliantly > Entangled by SIN > Almost LOST Soul!

c. We Need Perseverance:

v. 1 “and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”

v. 3 “so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted”

Emphasis > Some Form of Word ENDURE occurs in vs. 1,2,3

Long-Distance RACE > Don’t WIN with SPEED but PERSEVERANCE

How Liberating to Fall in Line Behind PACESETTER > Just RUN

Trust Author/Finisher of Faith / LOVER of My Soul / Forever Friend

Faith CHASES Away FEAR & UNBELIEF > Enables ENDURANCE

Son NATHAN has RUN 100 mile Events > TWICE

Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run: Lake Tahoe to Auburn, CA

100 miles in LENGTH – Several 1000 ft in ELEVATION Change

“runners experience the majestic high country of Emigrant Pass and the Granite Chief Wilderness, the crucible of the canyons of the California gold country, a memorable crossing of the ice cold waters of the Middle Fork of the American River, and finally the historic reddish brown trails that led many travelers, including gold prospectors, to Auburn” Website

NEXT: 100 miles on TRACK in Eugene, Oregon – Track Town USA

Running about 24 hours > Around, Around, Around same TRACK

Christian Life is LONG Distance Race > STICK with It
 SUNDAY comes Every 7 Days > Who will serve in Kalahikiola?

v. 1 “run with endurance **the race that is set before us**”

RACE Set Before ME gonna be Different than ONE Set Before YOU

RUN with Perseverance > SPECIFIC Course Marked Out for US

I CAN Finish what God has ASSIGNED to ME > Not to You!

Don't Worry about WHERE Road is Going > Duty: Keep Running

Beijing 12 Years > New Season > Hawaii > NEVER Imagined KOHALA

Told God WILLING > Ready to Serve > Wherever and Whenever

How can I serve God TODAY > What is SET BEFORE ME Right Now?

2. Courage from the Witnesses

v. 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

Are People in HEAVEN Watching US? – We can't Be SURE

Popular Image Seated in STADIUM > Writer/Readers on TRACK

True Idea NOT They Watch US > WE Watch their LIVES of FAITH

HEAVEN Place of Joy > No More TEARS, Troubles, Trials!

Think Any Saint in Presence of God wants watch Mark Blair Show?

Take AWAY their Joy > Bring TEARS > Fool Doing Same Dumb Thing!

v. 1 “**Therefore**” pts Heb 11 WE been Watching Heroes of Hebrew Faith

Dodger Stadium BANNERS Jackie Robinson, Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 1 Corinthians 10.11

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15.4

PLAYING an AWAY Game > NOT in HOME Stadium

Playing in FRONT of HOME CROWD > EXAMPLE Encourages

Scot Eric Liddel 400 mtrs 1924 Paris: “when I run I feel His pleasure”

Chapter 11 > REMINDER of Great People and Great Events Hebrews

Like visit Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY / Little Boy Loved!

BENEFIT of Church Attendance > Example Saints – Walk w God for Life

One way to GROW Endurance and Encouragement is Read BIBLE

ABEL > TRUE Sacrifice that we can TRUST for Salvation

NOAH > World is CONDEMNED but God Provides ARK of Refuge

ABRAHAM > TRUST Promises of God even when Seems Impossible

Having PROBLEMS with your FAMILY > Read Story of JOSEPH

Overwhelmed by your JOB > Read Life of MOSES

MOSES > FORFEIT Status in World for FOREVER Kingdom of Go

Tempted to RETALIATE > Read Story and Psalms of DAVID

3. Christ our Winner

vs. 1,2 and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus

THEME of Hebrews: Jesus is BETTER > He is HERO of OT Heroes

Jesus: “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”

John 8.56

FIX Eyes on JESUS – HUMAN Name > Heavenly TITLE: CHRIST

MAN like US – Struggled, Suffered, Sympathize - MORE than Us!

v. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

FAINTHEARTED? Bruised? Wounded? Tired? Another Meeting?

PERSEVERANCE – Run! NOT a Sprint – Called to MARATHON!

SUNDAY shows Up – Every Week, Year after Year, Life goes ON!

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession Hebrews 3.1

v. 2 “looking to Jesus” – Look AWAY from One Thing to ANOTHER

TURN FROM Empty, Vain, Distractions > TURN Your Eyes on JESUS

Conscience ACT: LOOK @ Jesus! – Purpose, Intention, Deliberate

Present Participle > Keep on Looking > Stay FOCUSED

Consider HIM so you will NOT COLLAPSE in Your RACE

v. 3 “consider him” “THINK Deeply” > INTENTIONAL

Make a POINT of It > GIVE Your Full ATTENTION

v. 2 the founder and perfecter of our faith

FOUNDER – Forerunner / Pioneer > TRAILBLAZER

First One to DO Something for Us > BRINGS Us Too!

Thru VALLEY > Ravine > TOO Wide to CROSS > TRAPPED

Fortunately for Hikers: GUIDE is Long Jumper / Jumps Across w/ ROPE!

SPURGEON 15 > Church in hometown Colchester S.E. England

Snowy Day 1850 – So COLD went into Methodist CHAPEL

Regular Preacher SNOWED Out – Church Member did his Best...

Text Isaiah 45:22, “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth” – Anybody can Look, Don’t Need Education, Special Training

Repeated for Long Time / Poor Speaker / 12 to 15 People Present

Spurgeon – Young, Talented, Preacher, Growing Popularity & PRIDE!

Humor of God > Greatest Preacher in English Language

Converted under Ministry of One of WORST Preachers Ever!

OLD Preacher fixed his Eyes on Spurgeon & Spoke to him Directly: “Young man, you look very miserable.” Young Man > Look to Jesus!

LOOK = TRUST > Hopes, Life, Future, Family, Finances in His Hands

Begin SINGLE Act > Becomes LIFESTYLE > Continues ETERNITY

whoever believes in him may have eternal life

John 3.15

v. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself,

v. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Jesus' BATTLE against Sin DEMANDED that HE Shed His BLOOD

Hebrew Xtians Endured TROUBLES/TRIALS, Lived to Tell Testimony

Writer FOCUS > JESUS on CROSS > His Greatest FAITH Test

MOCKED by Religious Leaders "He trusts in God" (Matthew 27.43)

INSULTS were TRUE > "Into your Hands I Commit My Spirit"

SACRIFICE better than ABEL // PLEASED God like ENOCH

Looked Forward to CITY of God like ABRAHAM

STOOD w/ Despised PEOPLE like MOSES > Became DELIVERER

Church History Real Xtians RUN Into Battle, Plagues, Famine, Disaster

Jesus: "Want to SAVE Your Life you will Lose It – Give Away: GAIN!"

Looking to Jesus > HOPE, COURAGE, BOLDNESS, ZEAL, Compassion

GREATEST Fear is FOR Others > Die w/Out Jesus > Heading to HELL

Want Grandkids Know > Gave My Life Serving Jesus, Loving OTHERS

vs. 2 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.

Portrait Gallery Hebrews 11 > None of them DIED for your SINS

None of them ROSE from DEAD for your Salvation, Give Holy Spirit

Emmanuel – Cheers ALONG Way – and EMBRACES You at END

People will DISAPPOINT You – Let You DOWN – FAIL You!

Married to Someone you LOVE > LEAVE, LIE to You, CRUSHING

TRUST a Pastor, Christian Leader > They Walk Away from GOD

ONLY Person Worthy of FULL TRUST – FOREVER Trust > Jesus!

v. 2 “for the joy that was set before him endured the cross”

Being GOD did NOT Lessen PAIN or INTENSITY of SUFFERING

Physical Suffering was AS INTENSE as What ANY Person would Feel

DESPISE Shame – Who Cares about Hurt – Physical, Emotional, Spiritual

Gave ALL He had to Love, Change, Fix – While People Laughed at Him

“There is no joy like the accomplishment of a noble task; and of the noblest task of all eternity; Christ was able to say, ‘I have finished it’” William Newell

David spoke for Jesus: “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16.11

JOY > Obeyed Father, Glorified Name, Bought Countless Multitude

Every Tongue, Tribe, People, Nation / Men, Women, Boys, Girls

Founded New Heaven & Earth/ Inaugurated Kingdom/ New Creation

Jesus: “this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” John 17.3-5

Hebrews 12.¹Therefore, 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, ²looking 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. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.