

Christ Above all else

Hebrews 12:3-11

- In the first two verses we have been encouraged to run our spiritual race with endurance, showing that we are going to have to go through things in this life that require patience, courage, and hope. So, in order to do that the writer says we must keep our eyes on Jesus, the **Author** and **Finisher** of our faith, in other words because salvation for you and me began with us **surrendering to Jesus**, and it ends with us **being with Jesus**, we don't need to look to anything else for help **but Jesus** amen!

V3-11

- **V3** don't take my word for it the writer shares lets examine the history yourselves > he said looking at Jesus Who endured the cross the physical, the natural, and the shame, the emotional, the spiritual, and afterward sat down victorious at The Right Hand of God. **V3** consider Him Who endured the hostility from sinners against Himself, remember He was drenched in their spittle, pelted with their curses, beaten with their fists, and crowned with their thorns, we are to consider this.
- Consider comes from the Greek word "Analogizomai" Ana means again, Logizomai means study, it gives the impression of repetition, it's where we get the English word **analyze**. It means to carefully deliberate, with thoroughness and completeness, to accurately assess the situation.
- So in our difficulties, our problems, the writer says to look at Jesus, and to consider, study, meditate, carefully deliberate, with thoroughness and completeness, how He handled His difficult circumstances and situations, and after analyzing that then imitate and follow His examples. This will protect us from growing weary and becoming discouraged in our souls, by keeping focus on Jesus and how He handled things not in leaning on our own understanding and insight, instead consider Jesus.
- **V4-6** these readers were under immense persecution, much more than most of us have ever experienced, as not only had the Roman government turned on them by making it legal to evict and take Jewish families homes and businesses, but also from their family members and the Jewish community for believing in Jesus and that you are saved by grace and not the Law, therefore causing them to become ostracized from Jewish society.

- In less than three years of this letter being written the Roman general Titus will lead a siege upon Jerusalem that will allow his army to march into Jerusalem burn it to the ground, and afterward dismantling their prized temple stone by stone, brick by brick, But no matter how much they've suffered Jesus suffered more > **Jn 15:18-20**.
- One of the great reasons for the discouragement among Jewish Christians was that they saw no reason why God would allow such difficulties to happen to His people. Many believers think the same way, what they forget is the principle regarding chastening from The Lord, it's never meant to destroy us, but to drive us closer to Him. Trials are not signs of rejection, but reminders that we belong to Him.
- **V7-8** tell us that whether its for correction or direction, God's chastening is a reminder that we belong to Him, that we are His Children, and if we are going through something difficult we need to look to Him and trust Him to let this draw us closer to Him and not further away from Him. Which is why **V5** says those three words "**you have forgotten**" **Prov 3:11-12, Jn 15:2**- after we produce good fruit we can expect to be pruned to bring forth more fruit, pruning hurts but its necessary.
- **V9-11** he ends with an example of what a good human father does for his children, and even though he means well he doesn't always do it right. But God unlike our human father who mean well, The Lord always gets it right, its us who receive it wrong, and therefore resist it, not allowing it to produce the peaceable fruit in our lives and hearts that God intended it to, for He sent it to train us not destroy us.