



The Christian Race

Hebrews 12:1-11

- 1) In the Christian race (Gr. *agon*), believers must **divest** themselves (12:1)
 - a) From sin (that which threatens); repent
 - b) From comparison w/ others, maintaining focus on Christ
 - c) From surrendering under trials & persecutions
 - d) From encumbrances (that which hinders); put off
- 2) To complete the Christian race, believers must **fixate** on Jesus (2)
 - a) The author (trailblazer; pioneer) of faith
 - b) The perfecter of faith
 - c) He who endured the cross, despising its shame
 - d) He who sat down at God's right hand in glory
- 3) Christians are to **consider** Jesus so as to not lose heart (3)
- 4) God's discipline in our lives has a divine purpose: holiness (4-11)
 - a) For punishment: like David's loss of a child after adultery
 - b) Prevention: as in Paul's thorn in the flesh
 - c) Education: as in Job's seemingly unfair suffering
 - d) Developing faith: as in Abraham's commission to kill Isaac
 - e) Like God, if parents love, they discipline: (Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14).