

PURSUING JESUS

Hebrews 12:1-3; 14-17; 22-24; 28-29

Westland Baptist Church
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Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1. Pursue Jesus by:

- **THROWING OFF hindrances.**
- **REPENTING of sin(s).**
- **PURSUING Jesus!**

Persevere, Focus (fix your eyes...)

¹⁴Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. ¹⁷Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

2. Pursue Jesus by:

- **PURSUING holiness.**

Live at peace with others. Vs 14a

Let go of hurts and overcome bitterness. Vs 15

Do not be controlled by the lust of the flesh. Vs 16

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

3. Pursue Jesus by:

- **Running Toward JOY knowing:**

WHERE we are - Surrounded by Holy, Joyful Witnesses Vs 22

WHO we are - The Daughters and Sons of the Living God-The Church Vs 23

WHOSE we are - '...whose names are written in Heaven Vs 23b

and

HOW we got here - By the New Covenant, by The Blood The Lamb - Jesus! Vs 24

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our "God is a consuming fire."

4. Pursue Jesus by:

- Being **THANKFUL** and by **REVERENTLY** (with a sense of and behavior indicating a sense of 'awe') living in the presence of God.