

Sermon: Greater Endurance

Series: Greater – Study of Hebrews

Date: May 19, 2019

Text: Hebrews 12

Hebrews 12 (page)

Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV) - Therefore, 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, 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. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Christians Run a Spiritual Race

Romans 7:15-20 (ESV) - ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Romans 7:24-25a (ESV) - ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV) - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

1 Peter 1:5 (NLT) - And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

A. W. Tozer – “Following hard after God.”

Jesus is the Founder and Perfecter

(Picture of Laurel Crown)

Hebrews 12:3 (ESV) - Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Hebrews 12:4-11 (ESV) - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproofed by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all

have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11b - ... later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Romans 8:28 (ESV) - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Discipline is teaching.

Hebrews 12:12-17 (ESV) - Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Hebrews 12:13 (NLT) - Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

Making “straight paths” will allow us to follow Jesus and He will restore us.

We are to be fighting sin and living faithfully.

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God...”

“... that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.”

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (ESV) - Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Hebrews 12:16b (ESV) - ... unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Genesis 25:34b (ESV) - ... Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Esau is an example of someone that regrets what they have done, but does not truly repent of their wrongdoing.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT) - For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

True repentance requires a hatred of sin.

A person may show regret, and not be willing to repent.

Hebrews 12:26-29 (ESV) - ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire.

Romans 12:1 (ESV) - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

We worship with awe that we are citizen of his unshakeable kingdom.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV) - Therefore, 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, 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.

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

What extra weight or sin are you carrying?

How often do you not look to Jesus?