

HEBREWS 12:1-3

GOOD MORNING: Over the last few weeks, we have been in a sermon series called the Find & Follow Experiment which has been casting vision for how we will walk faithfully in 2022. Next week, our Lead Pastor Rick Sayger will be here to finish that series and we will take time to commit to walking faithfully next year in the six commitments we have covered in this series. Feel free to download the Colonial Hills App & catch up if you missed any of this series.

THIS WEEK: We will take time to center our hearts and lives around the Lord's Supper (Communion), remember what God has done for us, and I want to encourage us for the next season of the journey.

READ HEBREWS 12:1-3

¹Therefore, 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.

CONTEXT: Hall of Faith, those who had faith without seeing or knowing Jesus, those who gave all

1) RELINQUISH OUR BURDENS.

- everything that hinders
 - good and bad
 - what are the things that hinder you?
- relinquish them to God but also allow others to pick them up and carry them with you

ILLUSTRATION: TABLE IN THE BACK YARD

2) REPENT OF OUR SIN.

- 180 Degree Turn (North to South)
- Repentance should catch the attention of both God & people (why?)

QUOTE: E.M. Bounds

“But repentance involves not only sorrow for sin, but the turning away from wrong-doing, and the learning to do well. A repentance which does not produce a change in character and conduct, is a mere sham.”

WHEN WE REPENT WE ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT!!

WE RUN, THINK, LOOK, & ACT DIFFERENT.

- STRANGERS & ALIENS

3) RUN OUR RACE.

A) PERSEVERANCE

- sticktoitness
- faithfulness
- the race is marked out for us in Scripture (need for Bible intake, study, & memorization)

B) OUR RACE

- I am not called to run a race that looks like someone else's race
- Peter in John 21:21 (Context)
 - Lord, what about him?" ²²Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

4) REMEMBER OUR SAVIOR.

A) REMEMBER THE PAST

- pioneer
- the one who made a way

B) REMEMBER THE FUTURE

- WEIRD PHRASE BUT WE DO THIS ALL THE TIME
 - prospective memory - memory of intention ("help me remember to...")
- perfecter
- coming king

WHY DO WE NEED TO RELINQUISH, REPENT, RUN, & REMEMBER?

READ HEBREWS 12:3

³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- SO WE WON'T GROW WEARY & LOSE HEART

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOURSELF TODAY?

WE ALL NEED ENCOURAGEMENT BUT I HAVE FOUND THAT THERE ARE TWO PLACES FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TYPICALLY FIND THEMSELVES IN THEIR FAITH JOURNEY:

1) PEOPLE WHO NEED TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE FURTHER ALONG THE JOURNEY THAN THEY THINK THEY ARE IF THEY WILL LOOK BACK AND THEN FOCUS FORWARD.

2) PEOPLE WHO NEED TO TO REALIZE THEY ARE NOT WHERE THEY NEED TO BE BUT ARE WILLING TO RELINQUISH & REPENT AND THEN FOCUS FORWARD SO THEY CAN KNOW GOD, BE WHO HE HAS CALLED THEM TO BE & DO EVERYTHING HE HAS CALLED THEM TO DO.

BOTH OF THOSE PLACES ARE ENCOURAGING PLACES IF WE WILL LEAN ON GOD TO HELP US MOVE FORWARD & TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT STEP OF FAITH.

THOSE ARE THE PLACES FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST CAN FIND THEMSELVES; HOWEVER TODAY YOU MAY NOT EVEN BE IN THE RACE.

- RELINQUISH CONTROL
- REPENT OF YOUR SIN
- GET ON THE STARTING LINE
- REMEMBER IT IS A MARATHON AND NOT A SPRINT

LORD'S SUPPER

- Jesus calls us to remember
- For Followers of Jesus
- Kids/Students (opportunity to share the gospel)

READ MATTHEW 26:26-28

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.