

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 1-2-22
Race Running Wisdom

1. Introduction:
 - a. Running a race has a starting line and a finish line.
 - b. The Christian life is at time likened to running a race.
 - c. That prompts two questions:
 - 1) Are you ready to cross the finish line of this life?
 - 2) What kind of race as a Christian are you running?
2. Some much-needed background:
 - a. Hebrews 11:
 - 1) Lots of names you know
 - 2) Hebrews 11:33-40 –
 - 3) Do you see the contrast? Deliverance versus Endurance
 - b. Their testimony:
 - 1) Their personal conviction convicts me.
 - 2) They stood steadfast because of a promise that God made but not yet fulfilled.
 - 3) Hebrews 11:13 –
 - 4) We are on the other side of so many of those promises that have been fulfilled.
 - a) Are we as convinced that He has come as they were that He was coming?
 - c. Looking ahead:
 - 1) The greatest threat to the church and our faith today is Mediocrity.
 - 2) Why would God make sure their story was recorded?
3. We can see your life leaves lessons long after you are gone: Hebrews 12:1
 - a. Their testimony:
 - 1) We are impacted today by the race they ran –
 - b. “LET US” – verse 1
 - 1) It is a call to make a choice –
 - c. “lay aside every weight:” verse 1
 - 1) “lay aside” – to put away, to cast off
 - 2) “weight” – burden, hindrance
 - d. “and the sin that doth so easily beset us” – verse 1
 - 1) “beset us” – sin that clings, distracts, entangles, trips up the Christian runner.
 - 2) Flesh – our own personal techniques for satisfying our own perceived needs apart from God.
 - e. “let us run with patience the race that is set before us” – verse 1
 - 1) “let us” – there it is again!!!!
 - 2) “patience” – cheerful, hopeful, endurance, constant, steadfast, perseverance.
 - a) This word references the spirit and faith, the tenacity to not sit back and put up with the trials of life but it is the spirit that stands up faces the trials, goes forward walking in the victory that you already have in Christ.
 - 3) “race that is before us” –

- a) “race” – this race is a life not a sprint.
- 4. Faithful Focus for a Fearless Finish: Hebrews 12:2
 - a. What are your eyes looking at?
 - 1) “Looking unto Jesus” – means we are looking away from all that will distract us.
 - b. “the author and finisher of our faith”
 - 1) “author” – Jesus pioneered, created the path we now follow by faith into God’s presence.
 - 2) “finisher” – Jesus brings it to completion.
 - c. “who for the joy set before Him” –
 - 1) The redemption of man to be reconciled to God.
 - d. “endured the cross, despising the shame” –
 - e. “and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”
 - 1) He finished His race, His work is complete.
- 5. You see, A Faithful Focus for a Fearless Finish: Hebrews 12:3
 - a. “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself”
 - 1) In Amplified we read –
 - b. “lest ye be weary and faint in your minds”
 - 1) It is a battle for the mind.
- 6. Today’s Take Away:
 - a. Are you ready to cross the finish line of this life?
 - b. What kind of race as a Christian are you running?

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Jesus