

Lesson 14: Hebrews 12

The faithful witnesses of **Hebrews 11** kept their eyes on the promise of the seed even though they didn't see Him. Now it's our turn to live by faith, to run the race set before us, to endure, and to keep our eyes on Jesus, following His example!

Day 1

1 Pray!

2. Read straight through **Hebrews 12** to get the flow of thought. Notice how the writer uses two themes. He pictures athletics and running a race in **verses 1-13** and a citizenship (in the heavenly city) in **verses 14-29**.

Do you see how this chapter is an “exhortation to an endurance of faith?”

3. Then go through the chapter again, and mark the key words and phrases you have been marking.

Also, mark “chastening/chasten (corrected/scourges)” in the same way. It is only in this chapter, but it is important to the chapter!

3. With **verse 1**, we have the application of the examples of enduring faith in **Hebrews 11**... as they are an incentive for the recipients of this letter and for us to exercise patient endurance in the race we have begin in Jesus. They were winners in running the race set before them.

Verse 1a says, “Therefore”. So in light of the “great cloud” (mass, not just a single cloud) of witnesses”... that we are surrounded by (those in heaven... like people in a stadium), what are we to do?

a. According to **verse 1b**, ‘let us lay aside’ what 2 things?

b. According to **verse 1c**, ‘let us’ what?

c. It is not just sin that can get in the way of our running our race and finishing. What “weights” come to mind that could hinder your progress in running your race? Can weights even be considered good things by others?

d. **Verse 1b** says “the sin which so easily ensnares”, not a sin or any sin. While the writer does not name the sin, considering what we know about those he is writing to, what sin do you think he has in mind?

4. As you consider what we studied today, is there anything hindering your race at the present time?

Day 2

Let’s remember that this chapter is about the endurance of faith. We have seen in this study that the sin of unbelief kept Israel out of the Promised Land, and it is unbelief that hinders us from entering into our spiritual inheritance in Christ. The phrase “by faith” (or “through faith”) is used twenty-one times in Hebrews, indicating that it is faith in Christ that enables us to endure.

1 Pray!

2. Read **Hebrews 12: 1-4**.

3. In **verse 1**, we looked to the cloud of witnesses who have won/finished their race, thus encouraging us that we can do the same! We also looked at ourselves to see if there is a sin or a weight that is hindering our race. But now, in **verse 2**, who are we to look to?

4. In **verse 2**, it says “looking unto Jesus”. What does “looking” mean? Do a word study. Take the meaning back to the text. What is he saying?

5. **Verse 2** say, Jesus is the _____ and _____ of _____ faith.

a. Note: Author means *pioneer*, *chief leader*, *example*, and *originator*”. Jesus is all of these. In **Hebrews 2: 10**, the same word is used. Jesus is also author of what?

b. Jesus is also the finisher (*perfecter*) of their faith. Jesus is the finisher in the sense of completing it. He is also the complete example of faith. The Greek word for “perfecter” means “one who carries it through to completion.”

- c. What is the author (through the Holy Spirit) telling them and us?
6. Verse 2 tells us how and why Jesus was the ultimate example.
- a. Was it the cross that Jesus considered a joy? What was it?
 - b. And Jesus did not welcome the “shame” that came with the cross. He _____ it. Yet He endured through it to victory.

Shame is a significant trial. Look up and write out **Daniel 12: 2**.

This is a stumbling block to many. They will do just about anything for Jesus except endure shame or embarrassment. But Jesus bore this hellish shame to accomplish our redemption.

- c. The same mentality that Jesus had will enable these Jewish Christians (and we ourselves) to endure. In your own words, explain.

7. Read **verses 3-4**. The writer says to “consider Jesus”! *Consider* means “to reason up”. From this word we get our English word *analogy*.

The writer uses this word to give the readers the total picture of Jesus’ sufferings. What do we learn about His sufferings.

8. In closing out today, think on these things:

- a. How much should they (and us) be willing to suffer? (**Verse 4** spells out the extent of endurance!)

b. By contemplating the sufferings Jesus endured... what He suffered and how much He suffered... they will realize their sufferings are quite mild.

How will this help them (and us) to eliminate mental and psychological discouragement in the midst of suffering? Especially, since He suffered as a sinless being and suffered on their behalf.

Write out some thoughts. How does this minister to you!

Day 3

1 Pray!

2, Read **Hebrews 12: 5-11**. Interrogate the text! List below what you learn about "chastening". Who chastens. Who does He chasten? Why? What is the result... what does it yield? How does it profit us, and so on?

3. In closing out today, read the following passages and compare them to what **Hebrews 12** teaches about chastening (discipline).

Deut. 8: 1-5

Psalm 119: 67, 71

Proverbs 3: 11-12

Heb. 5: 8

James 1: 2-4, 12

1 Peter 1: 6-9

Day 4

1 Pray!

2. Read *Hebrews 12: 12-29*.

3. In light of being trained by the Lord's chastening, what are we exhorted and instructed to do. Or, what is the application for believers?

Verses 12-13... get strong! How?

Verse 14-17..., get right! How?

Verses 18-24... get bold! How?

4. Read **Hebrews 12: 25-29**. If we refuse to get strong, to get right, and to get bold, then we should not remain ignorant of the consequences. **Watch out!**

a. Before we consider this last “warning” or extreme exhortation, let’s remember the all-encompassing theme of this letter. God has spoken, is anyone listening. What did we learn at the beginning of the letter. See **Hebrews 1: 1-2a**.

b. Like those in **Hebrews 11**, all believers must walk by faith. God speaks, we choose to take Him at His word and obey. We must heed God’s word. Write out **Hebrews 12: 25a**.

c. Hebrews 12: 14- 29 tells us that we run our endurance race by the enablement of God’s _____. (See **verses 15, 28**)

d. We must listen to God's Word and really hear it... so as to do. They (and we) have been warned not to:

Drift from the Word by neglect: Hebrews 2: 1-4

Doubt the Word due to hardness of heart: Hebrews 3: 7 through Hebrews 4: 13

Have a dullness toward the Word through sluggishness: Hebrews 5: 11-6:20

Despise the Word because we want to do what we want to do (willfulness): Hebrews 10: 26-39

e. God is speaking to us today through His Word and His providential working in the world. We had better listen! **Hebrews 12: 25-29** exhorts us to look at the unshakable kingdom to come. Read the verses again. The shaking quotation is from **Haggai 2:6** and refers to that time when the Lord shall return and fill His house with glory. According to **Hebrews 12**, in your own words, what shall we do as we live in a shaking world?

Day 5

1 Pray!

2. Write out **Hebrews 12: 11**.

As we close out this week's study, let's zero in on a major subject in this chapter and in the Bible.

3. Read **Isaiah 32:17**. What is the "peaceable fruit of righteousness"?

4. In the context of **Proverbs 4: 20-27**, what does **Hebrews 12: 12-13** mean?

5. Read the following verses and record what you learn about sanctification:

Matthew 5:8

1 Cor. 6: 9-11

Ephesians 5: 3-7

1 These. 4: 1-8

1 Peter 1: 15-16

6. How has this chapter spoken to you personally this week? How are you doing running the endurance race set before you. Are you looking to Jesus? What aspect of this chapter encouraged you?