

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NIV, 1984)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin which so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endures such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



**Be Thou My Vision**

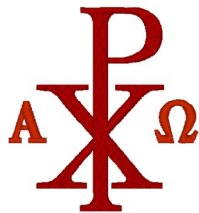
Dallan Forgaill, 8th Century  
Translated by Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



**THE RACE SET BEFORE US**

Rev. Brian W. Secor May 28, 2015

Of all options as Christians, the most important is that we fix our eyes on Jesus Christ. To find our way forward as Christians in this God-denying culture, we must choose so that we run the race to win.

**I. WE REMEMBER OUR GREAT HERITAGE OF FAITH AS SEEN IN FAITHFUL PEOPLE.**

A. The glory of the \_\_\_\_\_ is that is for time & eternity.

**II. WE TURN FROM OUR MANIFOLD SINS & WICKEDNESS TO HOLY LIVING.**

A. To live for Christ, we have to make choices.

1. Certainly we \_\_\_\_\_ from our manifold sins & wickedness.
2. Certain \_\_\_\_\_ does easily entangle us.
3. Not only does sin entangle us but the \_\_\_\_\_ can become the enemy of the best.

**III. WE RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE SET BEFORE US WITH THE INTENT OF WINNING.**

A. New Testament considers perseverance one of the key Christian \_\_\_\_\_ for believers.

B. To begin well in Christ is good but the goal of faith is to \_\_\_\_\_ well.

**IV. WE FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS & IMITATE HIM.**

A. Jesus is the pattern & goal for our \_\_\_\_\_:

1. Our desire is to follow in his steps, to be more & more like him.  
I Peter 2:21-25. Philippians 3:7-11

B. To fix our eyes on & to be like Jesus is the key to running the race successfully.

1. He took the \_\_\_\_\_ view.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ troubles & suffering in the present to gain an eternal weight of glory.
3. He did not let what \_\_\_\_\_ thought of him determine his life choices.
4. The result was he is now \_\_\_\_\_ by the Father & is forever Lord.

**V. WE ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT CHRISTIAN LIVING MAY COST US & EMBRACE THE COST.**

A. We remember the cost our \_\_\_\_\_ paid to bring us back to God & to glory.

B. To fix our eyes on Jesus is to embrace the \_\_\_\_\_ of following him, whatever that cost may be.

1. The world, the flesh & the devil are masters at producing weariness in following Jesus.
2. When we get weary, it is crucial to renew our focus on Jesus & to clearly fix our eyes on him. He had it rougher than we will ever have.
3. Call of the \_\_\_\_\_ is to remember the faithful & to fix our eyes on Jesus until we stand before him in victory.