

"Focus on the Finish"

Hebrews 12:1-3

Know how to win the Christian race.

I. What kind of race are we running?

Heb.12:1 "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"

A. **It is long distance race** --- in these you train for endurance.

B. **It is a personal race.**

1. God has given you a race and God has given me a race.

C. **It is a permanent race**— Once you get on this track you are in it for life.

1. There is good news and bad news.

(a) Good new – Every Christian will make it to heaven.

(b) Bad news – Not every Christian will win his race.

1 Cor.9:24 --

II. How do you run your race in such a way that you win?

A. **The Five Commandments of Running the Christian race:**

Heb.12:1 *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us,*"

1. **Find encouragement from those who ran before us –**
(Heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11)

2. **Lay aside whatever weighs you down. Hebrews 12:1b ...let us also lay aside every encumbrance.**

(a) A weight is not bad thing in and of itself. But a weigh can become a bad thing if it keeps you from the best thing?

3. **Lay aside all sinful entanglements. Heb.12:1 ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us,**

4. **Keep focused on the Jesus who waits for us at the finish. Heb.12:1c "...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith"**

(a) Run the race with two mindsets:

(1) **Run with determination** – I am not going to quit!
Jesus is not impressed with how fast you run. He is impressed by how far you run.

(2) **Run with concentration** – Focus on Jesus. Get your eye off those people... off your self. "*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith*"

5. **Get inspiration from the example of Christ.**

Hebrews 12:2 "²...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." -

(a) The difficulty of His race: endured the cross and despised the shame.

(b) The strength for His race: The joy set before Him.

(c) The reward for His race:

(1) He sat down at the right hand of His Father.

(2) With it He secured a kingdom

Think, Pray and Obey:

1. Let go of the weights in your life.

2. Confess the sins that entangle you.

3. Start running in obedience Christ.

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A. It is _____ race --- in these you train for endurance.

B. It is a _____ race.

1. God has given you a race and God has given me a race.

C. It is a _____ race_— Once you get on this track you are in it for life.

1. There is good news and bad news.

(a) Good news – Every Christian will _____.

(b) Bad news – Not every Christian will _____.

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A. The Five Commandments of Running the Christian race:

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3. Lay aside all _____ entanglements. **Heb.12:1** ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us,

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5. Get inspiration from the example of _____. –

Hebrews 12:2 "...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(a) The difficulty of His race: _____.

(b) The strength for His race: _____.

(c) The reward for His race:

(1) _____.

(2) _____.

Think, Pray and Obey:

1. Let go of the weights in your life.
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