


Hebrews 12: Encouragement to Run the Race of the Christian Life with Patience

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 12:1-17

INTRODUCTION

Paul explained to the Gentile believers in Galatia not to allow themselves to be placed under law for their daily Christian living – Gal 3:1-3



Paul encouraged the Hebrew believers to come out from under the Law and to embrace the New Covenant for the Church, which provides Eternal Life by grace for daily Christian Living.

INTRODUCTION (continued)

Hebrews chapter 12 encourages these Jewish believers, who are tempted to put themselves back under Law, to “run the race” of their daily lives by grace and with patience.

Jesus: Our Example for Righteous Suffering

- ◇ A cloud of witnesses (ch 11) who exercised faith
 - ◇ Note Rom 9:16 – “So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy”
 - ◇ No running involved for *initial* salvation
 - ◇ Lay aside obstructions for this race:
 - ◇ Every weight
 - ◇ The sin (unbelief) – cf Jn 16:8-11
 - ◇ *Of what God desires*
 - ◇ *Of what God has provided*
 - ◇ *Of the reality of God’s promises*
- ◇ While looking to Jesus’ example of endurance (patience) – Heb 12:2-4

Child-Training for Maturity (Sonship)

Heb 12:3-13 “...My son, despise do not the chastening of the Lord...”

- Children of God (born-oes) by means of the new birth
- Son by Holy Spirit baptism – Gal 3:26-27
 - “son” used 5x in Heb 12:5-8

The Product of Child-training (Chastening)

Heb 12:14 - Pursuing peace with all men and holiness




Heb 12:15 - Looking out for any shortcoming of NOT living by grace




Heb 12:16-17 - example of failing to see the value of grace

CONCLUSION


The Christian life is a race – one that is against ourselves (I Cor 9:24). But it is a *marathon*, not a *sprint*.



Peter described this marathon a “growth” toward maturity, not instantaneous maturity - II Peter 3:18



There will be daily struggles, but God’s grace is always more than enough - II Cor 12:9



NEVER give up the race! Never retreat to our pre-salvation lifestyle of self-effort