


Hebrews 12: Encouragement to Run the Race of the Christian Life with Patience (Part 2)

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 12:1-17

INTRODUCTION

NT grace-believers are encouraged by attentively focusing on Jesus' example of suffering for righteousness



Jesus suffered the contradiction (literally, “speaking against”) from sinners over their need of initial salvation by grace and not the works of the Law

INTRODUCTION (continued)

NT grace-believers can experience suffering for using God's
grace daily living instead of Law-keeping

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 12:5-13 “...My son, despise do not the chastening of the Lord...”

- God’s purpose: to conform us to the image of His Son
- Rom 8:29, cf Col 1:15, John 14:9 , Col 3:9-10

Child-Training for Maturity (Sonship) continued

Heb 12:5-13 "...My son, despise do not the chastening of the Lord..."

- Our purpose:

- To correctly respond to God's correction (child-training) - vs12
- To run a correct course (for our Christian life) by correct enablement (i.e., grace) - vs 13 - cf Eph 2:8-9
- To pursue peace with all men, especially other believers -vs 14a
- To pursue holiness – live out a life separated unto the Lord (we are already separated unto the Lord in our position in Him – Col 1:10-12

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

**Keep
Looking at
the Distant
Future Line
of our Race
(Heb 12:15-17)**

Don't fall short of using God's grace:
"you in Christ" and "Christ in you"



Falling short of grace would result in bitterness – bitter about putting away a life of personal efforts under law and living life by grace and its resulting disdain and persecution by those of the World System

An Illustration of Failure to Appreciate and Use God's Provision for Present-Tense Salvation (Heb 12:16-17)

By profaning grace (counting grace a common thing, nothing special, or hollowed)

- Illustration: a threshold to a building where every filthy foot and shoe treads upon it

Esau despised his birthright

- Gen 25:24