

“Saving Faith’s Effort & Endurance”

Hebrews 12:1c

April 7, 2019

VIDEO: *“Defender”* (with lyrics)

INTRO:

- I pray that song spoke to your heart...
 - **That song summarizes today’s sermon...**
 - Did you hear:
 - *“I cried to God for help, He heard my voice”*
 - *“I will not be afraid, for my hope is in His name”*
 - *“Who is a ROCK but our God?”*
 - *Whose blood has **SEALED** our freedom?*
 - *Jesus...our Savior, Defender, Redeemer!*
 - *“so I advance with confidence in Christ”*

*“His precious truth delivers me
from lies that wage a war in me,
Your victory is mine... for ALL my days!”*

CONTEXT:

- The Word of God... The **Book of Hebrews**...
- Christ’s **GLORY... GRACE... & GOSPEL!** ([Heb. 1:1-3](#))

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- **Exhortation**: warning wrapped in encouragement
- Ch. 10... warning...
- Ch. 11... encouragement
- Ch. 12... exhortation.... **VICTORY in JESUS!** (vv.1-3)

T/S: This week **Heather & Brandon** in hospital for surgery

- I noticed the surgeon's focus & precision...
- Our sermon is like the surgeon's **green line**...

Hebrews 12:1a-b (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

- 12:1a.... **Faith's Clarity & Encouragement**
 - **Warning**: watch-out, wake-up, worship!
 - **Repent & Believe** the Gospel of Jesus
 - Rightly handle the **Word of God**
 - **Know who's who** around you
 - **BE...** the great cloud of witnesses

let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles,

- 12:1b... *Faith's Priorities & Purity*
 - BE the “we”
 - Choose to lose
 - Accept EVERY absolute
 - Re-evaluate EVERYTHING
 - Stop sinning & stumbling!

PREVIEW: 12:1c... 5 more steps & stages to Victory

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and sin which so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance...

I. Wait! There's More!

and...

- “and” is a conjunction... it joins things together...
- In short, it means... “*We're not done yet!*”
- “and” points to a continuation...
- There's more to our immediate exhortation...
- There's more to this **VICTORY in Jesus!**
 - More than laying aside encumbrances...
 - More than laying aside sin...
 - More than putting things down...

II. Accept Responsibility!

and... let us...

- “let us” introduced the role of **VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION** in “laying aside”...

Romans 2:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ The LORD will repay each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by perseverance/persistence in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

- Here, “let us” implies the **ACCEPTANCE of RESPONSIBILITY**
 - Victory in Jesus says: “Yes Lord!”
 - Victory in Jesus begins with His miracle...
 - Victory in Jesus becomes life on His mission!

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk (run) in them.

- **KNOW who you’re running with!**
 - Ekklesia in Koinonia vs. weeds & wolves

III. **Work-out Your Salvation**

and... let us... run...

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear & trembling;

- Philippians 2:12

➤ *The Christian “walk” is a Christ-like run!* - JDP

VIDEO: “Wilma Rudolf”

Think of life in a wheel chair... running is a miraculous gift... you would run with joy & appreciation!

➤ 20th of 22 children... & Polio at age 4..

“My doctor told me I would never walk again... My mother told me I would... I believed my mother.”

(***** Get up and run!!! *****)

➤ *There is NO can't in Christ!*

➤ ***There's no can't this side of the cross!***

➤ *We are to endure like Christ!*

○ **Philippians 4:13**

○ **2 Peter 1:3**

*The Christian Church is a community of
Christ-followers on the run!* - JDP

- We're living lives worthy of the gospel
- We're doing all things as unto the LORD

Biblical RUNNING is...

- **BE-ing the Beatitudes:**
 - BEing poor in spirit
 - BEing blessed by mourning our sin
 - BEing meek
 - BEing hungry & thirsty for righteousness
 - BEing merciful
 - BEing pure in heart
 - BEing God's peace-makers
 - BEing persecuted for Christ

- **GROW-ing in the Fruit of the Spirit**
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Goodness
 - Faithfulness
 - Gentleness
 - Self-Control

Running is fruit in action!

➤ **LIVING the Purposes of the Church** (P.S.W.O.R.D.)

- Prayer
- Serving
- Worshipping
- Out-reaching
- Relating to others in truth & love
- Developing Disciples

Running is disciple-finding & disciple-growing!

➤ **WEARing & WIELDing the Full Armor of God**

- Helmet of Salvation
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Cleats of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Sword of the Spirit

Running is serving as an ambassador in the army of God!

- ...running into lion's dens...
- ...running into fiery furnaces...
- ...running into stormy seas...
- ...running into packs of wolves...

Biblical RUNNING Is:

- Listening... Learning... & Loving...
- Knowing... Growing... Going!
- Saying... Serving... Sending.
- Engaging... Equipping... Exemplifying.

- Affirming... Applying... Abiding.
- Obeying... Out-reaching... & Over-coming...
- Informing... Inspecting... Inspiring!
- Declaring... Developing... Deploying!
- Worshipping... Working... Witnessing!
- *ALL... Locally, Regionally... & Globally!*

*Running is living **OUT-of-balance... IN-obedience!***

- JDP

Running is **inviting & investing**
 Running is **following & fishing**
 Running is **praying & proclaiming**
 Running is **surrendering & serving**

- Friends... it's simple... **we are to run like Christ!**

T/S:

*** Sometimes running is knowing when not to run...
 but to STAND!

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.
 Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because
 you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

VIDEO: "Eric Liddell"

Romans 12:10-14 (NASB)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

IV. **By the Book**

*and... let us... run... **with**...*

T/S: So... when there are debates over “running” for Christ, we know to go to God’s Word for our answers... (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Perseverance proves both priorities & purity! - JDP

VIDEO: “*Can’t Lose It*” (with John Piper)

1 John 2:19 (ESV)

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained/continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

V. No Matter What!

and... let us... run... with... endurance...

Encumbrances kill endurance! - JDP

Too many are running for half-time vs. heaven... - JDP

Too many runners get entangled in excuses... - JDP

“Biblical endurance is faithful obedience in slow motion.”
- JDP

VIDEO: “Perseverance” (by James McDonald)

***** Don't ever lose sight of your lostness. ***** - JDP

The only reliable measure of biblical endurance is faithful obedience. - JDP

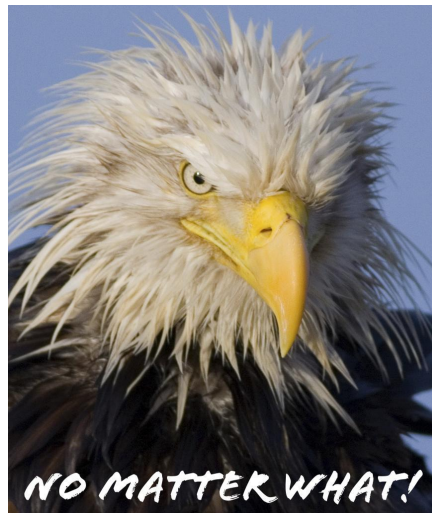
“Biblical endurance is the signature & finger print of faithful obedience.” - JDP

When it comes to loving & living in Christ-likeness, the ONLY thing you can't do in Christ is claim that you can't... in Christ! - JDP

VIDEO: *"I Can Plod"* (by William Carey)

[2 Timothy 3:10-11a](#) (NIV)

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me...



CLOSE:

[Hebrews 12:1a-c](#) (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and sin which so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance...

Make no mistake...

EVERYONE is running for SOMETHING! – JDP

The empowered walk is an endurance run! – JDP

Romans 15:5-6 (NASB)

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally)." – Acts 1:8

One Question: WHAT DO YOU WANT?
One Offer: COME AND SEE.
One Promise: TRUTH IN LOVE!

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
 - 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
 - 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
 - 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
 - 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
 - 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
 - 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
 - 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
 - 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
 - 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
 - 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
 - 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!
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➤ You need to **know how you're running...**

2 Timothy 2:11-12 (ESV)

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

➤ You **NEED** to **know how you're running...**

○ Power source...

○ Performance...

■ *** **Rich young ruler** came running!

■ *** **Zacchaeus** contrasts beautifully

■ *** PRODIGAL son???

VIDEO: "Derek Redmon" (see the PASSION & Power of his father...)

*** PRODIGAL Father???

➤ The Greatest Runner in the Bible!

➤ The Source & Sustainer of our running¹

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (HCSB)

May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance.

Let's Pray!

VIDEO: "Defender" (live)