

First Southern Baptist Church - Hebrews - 10-19-22
Faith's Discipline - Hebrews 12:1-11

Verses 1-2 - Run the Race

1. "Wherefore" - because of all that (chapter 11)
 2. You run - the conclusion of Chapter 11 - an encouragement to run your race
 - A. Like an Olympic race
 - the Greek word is "*agona*" (agony)
 - B. The race is "set before us"
 - 2 Tim. 4:6-8 Paul could say
 - "the time of my departure is at hand... I've fought the good fight, I've finished my course, I've kept the faith"
 - we do not get to choose our own race, it is set before us
 - C. The cloud of witnesses
 - Old Testament people of faith watching
 - contrast... they gave testimony (witness), you give witness
- !!).
- Can those in heaven see us?
- Two understandings...
- 1) - those just named are watching
 - 2) - just as they had witnesses so do we
- I rather like to see him as identifying himself with others who have gone before and have been in the arena. We "also" are encompassed with witnesses... just like they were.
3. How run?
 - A. Unencumbered
 - lay aside sin (it's not such a big thing)
 - lay aside weight (what's the harm? It's not a sin - but it is a weight)
 - Why? - they very easily trip us up
 - B. Run with focus - looking to Jesus
 - you've looked at other runners, now look to Jesus
 - Author /Finisher
 - how important is focus for an Olympic athlete?
 - Look to Jesus
 - as you race (verse 2)
 - consider Jesus (verse 3)
 - As you race look to Jesus - Peter discovered that if he kept his eyes on Jesus he could walk on water.
 - We are tempted to look:
 - at earth's pleasures
 - at heaven's glories
 - at ourselves
 - at our trials
 - We are to look at Jesus!
 - C. Run with endurance/ perseverance/ patience
 - still talking about patience - see again 10:36
 - D. Jesus being our example

He endured the shame
 He ran for the joy - so Jesus “looked” beyond the shame

Consider the joy:

- 1) Of many coming to know Jesus
- 2) Of final vindication
- 3) Of being reunited with His Father

And, now, He is set down

Consider His example

Verse 3 - Consider Jesus' Example

Look to Him (2), now consider Him (3)

He endured contradiction of sinners (hostility)

Against Him

Why? So you won't be weary and faint - the warfare is in your mind and the weakening of resolve there

Verses 4-5 - A Reminder

Against the backdrop of Jesus

Two rebukes:

- 1) You have not resisted unto blood (striving against sin)
- 2) You have forgotten (verse 5)

Quotes an Old Testament exhortation - Proverbs 3:11-12

Verses 6-11 - Discipline on the Race

Old Testament Quote - Proverbs 3:11-12

Principles:

1. Don't despise the Lord's chastening
 - discipline in this context (the athlete) encompasses the discipline of a father and the discipline of an athlete
 - so they were to take these persecutions as chastening from God. They may come from the world, but are allowed of God.
2. Don't faint when rebuked
 - Why? Whom the Lord loves He chastens (7)
 - He scourges every son (7)
3. If you endure His discipline - that means you are a son
 - reasoning, what son does the father not discipline?
 - “children” at verse 5 is *huios* not *tekna* (or babies)
 - huios* is grown sons, so, even grown sons need discipline
4. Further reasoning (8)
 - if you are not being disciplined, then you are not sons
 - could you reason from this that fathers who do not discipline are neglecting their duty?
 - could you reason from this that a father who does not discipline does not love his son?
5. Comparison with earthly fathers - We honor earthly fathers who discipline us (9)

- had you not rather be subject to heavenly discipline?
- earthly fathers disciplined us for their own ends, your heavenly father disciplines you for your own good (profit) (10)
- what is that good? - partakers of his holiness
- 6. Generally speaking - no one likes discipline (11)
 - A. At present it is not pleasant -
 - not joyous, but grievous
 - discipline is always painful
 - B. Afterward it yields fruit
 - the peaceable fruit of righteousness
- 7. Possible reactions to God's discipline
 - despise it (5)
 - faint under it (5)
 - endure it (7)
 - be exercised by it (11)

2 Timothy 4:6-8