



VINTAGE CHURCH

The Race of Faith Hebrews 12:1-3

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Run Together (v. 1a)

- Step back and see the vastness of the race
 - Together with biblical characters
 - Together with the historical church
 - Together with each other
- Don't get lost in a moment

Run to Win (v. 1b)

- Strategy in running and competing
- Strategy in living our faith
- Paul's example of running to win
 - “¹² Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:12-14).

Run to Christ (vv. 2-3)

- Focus on the main thing: Jesus
- Jesus the fulfillment of all that people hoped for in Hebrews 11
- Don't Give Up

- Continuance
 - “Many of these development areas are just plain desert, no spiritual activity, no service, little or no fellowship with Him or others. What prayer there is has to be forced and is sometimes dropped all together for months at a time. Bible study finally grinds to a halt; everything seems to add up to nothing. It is during these necessary times that the believer often feels that God has ceased to carry out His part, and there is little or no use in seeking to continue on. And yet there is a hunger of God deep within that will not allow him to quit. ‘The foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his (2 Tim 2:19a)’” (Miles J. Stanford, *The Complete Green Letters*, 72).
- In the end, we get to enjoy His victory