

Hebrews 12:1-3

Look to Jesus

The race of faith ...

I. Inspired by Witnesses

A. Faith

B. And Perseverance

II. Shedding Hinderances

A. Entanglements

B. And Besetting Sins

III. Focused on Jesus

A. Humiliation

B. To Exaltation

... is no game.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who is the writer talking about when he mentions the “cloud of witnesses?” Can you name at least 2?

2. In our passage, the Christian life is looked at like a race. In order to run well, a runner can’t have things that slow them down. What kinds of things might keep a Christian from running a good race of faith?

3. Living the Christian life was not going to be easy for the Hebrew Christians, and it is not for many believers. It may get hard for many of us at times. Who does the writer say we should look to to help us keep the faith in the trials of life?

The Arena of Life

True Christianity was never presented as a cakewalk in the Bible. The journey of faith is, on the other hand, often depicted as an intensive race. In this case the endurance part of a race is in view. The believer can picture himself as a runner in an arena on a track full of troublesome obstacles intended to divert them from reaching the finish line. Thankfully the bleachers are filled with multitudes of runners who have successfully endured the greatest of trials in their day, serving as examples and cheering them on. Better yet, in clear view ahead and above is One they are all pointing to as the focal point and greatest inspiration, the glorified Lord Jesus Christ. This life is no circular track in which we run around in circles – for believers – no matter what we face in the course of life – we are ultimately running into the arms of Jesus, the very founder and perfecter of our faith!