

WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING? (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- In our trials and challenges in life, where can we look or focus?
- The context of this passage involves the writer of Hebrews addressing _____ who were facing persecution due to their faith in Christ, and were in danger of _____ instead of _____ in faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Thus, the theme of Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus Christ is _____...

A. The ENCOURAGEMENTS We Need to HEAR. (Hebrews 12:1a)

1. The hinge word, “Therefore”, connects chapters ____ and ____.
2. The pronoun “we” indicates that this passage is for _____.
3. The phrase, “since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” points us back to the encouraging examples of those who _____ in chapter 11.
 - Who were some of these?

B. Two ENCUMBRANCES We Need to LAY ASIDE. (Hebrews 12:1b)

1. Encumbrance #1: We need to lay aside every _____ that would hinder us from running and finishing our race.
 - What might these be?
2. Encumbrance #2: We need to lay aside the _____ which so easily ensnares us.
 - What might this be?

C. The EXHORTATION We Need to HEED. (Hebrews 12:1c-2a)

1. God wants us to “run with _____ the _____ that is _____.”
 - Acts 20:24
2. God wants us to run our race by “_____, the author and finisher of our _____.”

- What are we NOT to be looking to or at?
- What does it mean to be “looking”?
- Who are we to be “looking unto”?
- How often are we to be “looking unto Jesus”?
- Why are we to be looking unto Jesus?
- What 2 things does this emphasize?

D. The EXAMPLE of JESUS CHRIST We Need to CONSIDER. (Hebrews 12:2b-3)

1. We need to consider the _____ of Jesus Christ in doing the will of God.

- What did Jesus ‘endure’?
 - a.
 - b.
- Why did He endure this?
- What was needed to endure all this?

2. We need to consider the _____ of Jesus Christ in doing the will of God.

- Where is Jesus Christ today?
- How should this encourage us?

**3. We need to consider the _____ of Jesus Christ in doing the will of God
“lest you become _____ and _____ in your _____.”**

- What is one of the hazards and challenges of finishing a race?
- How does all of this apply to you?