

# Run With Patience!

Lesson 19: Hebrews 12:1-17

May 7, 2017

# Review

- **The superiority of Christ** 1:1-6:20
  - The excellency of the Son as priest 1:1-4
  - Better than angels 1:5-2:18
    - Angels and the Son 1:5-14
    - Disobedience to angels punished 2:1-4
    - The world to come 2:5-8
    - Our High Priest had to suffer 2:9-18

# Review

- **The superiority of Christ** 1:1-6:20
  - Better than Moses 3:1-5:10
    - Moses and the Son 3:1-6
    - Disobedience under Moses punished 3:7-19
    - True rest in Christ 4:1-13
    - The qualifications of Christ as priest 4:14-5:10
  - Call to maturity 5:11-6:20

# Review

- **The new order** 7:1-13:17
  - The structure 7:1-10:18
    - The Priesthood of Melchizedek 7:1-8:5
    - The Old Covenant and the New Covenant 8:6-9:28
    - The last sacrifice 10:1-18
  - Life 10:19-13:17
    - Life under the great high priest 10:19-39
    - The life of faith illustrated 11:1-40
    - Diligence and discipline 12:1-17
    - The kingdom of the priest 12:18-29
    - Life as Christians 13:1-17
- **Closing** 13:18-25

# Key words

- Better – 13 of 15 NT occurrence
  - Angels 1:4
  - Hope 7:19
  - Covenant 7:22, 8:6
  - Promises 8:6
  - Sacrifices 9:23
  - Possession 10:34
  - Country 11:16
  - Resurrection 11:35
- Rest – 8 of 9 NT occurrences
- Sharers, partakers – 5 of 6 NT occurrences

# **HEBREWS 12:1 – 17**

# Outline

- 1 – 4 Endurance
- 5 – 11 Discipline and sonship
- 12 – 17 Applying discipline

## Endurance

### Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **run** with endurance the race that is set before us,

- Run is the main verb
- Our surroundings
- Our preparation
  - Lay aside encumbrances
  - Lay aside sin
- Our persistence



## **Endurance**

### **Hebrews 12:2**

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Our focus
- Author – one who begins or originates (associated with special esteem)
- Perfecter – one who brings something to a successful conclusion

# Interpretive Challenge

- 1.1 instead of the present joy before him
- 1.2 instead of the prospective joy before him X
- 2.1 for the present joy before him X
- 2.2 for the prospective joy before him

## **Endurance**

### **Hebrews 12:2**

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Our focus
- Author – one who begins or originates (associated with special esteem)
- Perfecter – one who brings something to a successful conclusion

## **Endurance**

### **Hebrews 12:3**

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- Consider – to reason with careful deliberation
- Jesus endured
- Sinner sometimes has to connotation of outsider
- Christ's example gives us confidence

## **Endurance**

### **Hebrews 12:4**

You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

- These believers have not had intense persecution
- These believers have not resisted sin as Christ did

**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:5**

and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“My son, do not regard lightly the **discipline** of the Lord,

Nor faint when you are **reproved** by Him;

- Endurance implies difficulty
- Question or statement?
- From Proverbs 3:11
- Discipline should not be despised

**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:6**

For those whom the Lord  
**loves** He **disciplines**,  
And He **scourges** every son  
whom He **receives**.”

- Discipline motivated by love
- Hebrew parallelism
  - loves/receives
  - disciplines/scourges
- Chiastic structure

**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:7**

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

- Discipline is to be desired
- We endure to be trained
- God is doing what even human fathers would do



**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:8**

But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

- Either sons or not sons
- Illegitimate – without legal rights or status
- Lack of discipline means lack of love

**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:9**

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

- Furthermore introduces new argument in a demonstration
- Lesser to the greater argument
- We should respect God for his discipline of us
- Fathers of flesh, Father of spirits

**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:10**

For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us for our good*, so that we may share His holiness.

- Human discipline is limited and subjective
  - Short time
  - Seemed best vs. good
- God has a better goal for us
- The only holiness is that from God

**Discipline and sonship**  
**Hebrews 12:11**

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- Discipline can train us
- Let discipline accomplish its work
- Concludes the race analogy

**Applying discipline**  
**Hebrews 12:12-13**

Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

- Isaiah 35:3
- Grow spiritually from discipline
- Need to seek healing not further injury
- We can take an active part in our own discipline

**Applying discipline**  
**Hebrews 12:14**

Pursue **peace** with all men,  
and the **sanctification**  
without which no one will  
see the Lord.

- Peace with unbelievers
- Holiness cannot be sacrificed for peace
- Holiness is a necessity

**Applying discipline**  
**Hebrews 12:15**

See to it **that** no one comes short of the grace of God; **that** no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

- While we pursue peace and holiness...
- Bitterness is a great temptation in trials
  - Against God
  - Against others
- Bitterness can spread

**Applying discipline**  
**Hebrews 12:16**

**that** *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal.

- While we pursue peace and holiness...
- Avoid worldliness
- Esau thought little of the promise passed on to Isaac



**Applying discipline**  
**Hebrews 12:17**

For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

- Inheritance generally went with the birthright
- Esau's repentance or Isaac's
- "It" can refer to blessing or repentance

# Summary

- Endure in the life of faith striving against sin
- We experience discipline because of God's love
- Discipline is for our good so that we may share God's holiness
- We need to respond when disciplined