

## The Book of Hebrews

### Chapter Twelve

#### *Run the Race – The Pattern of Faith*

#### I. Chapter Twelve Memory Verse:

Hebrews 12:2 *“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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

#### II. Lesson – Chapter Twelve

##### A. So Great a Cloud of Witnesses (12:1)

1. “We” modern Hebrews (as opposed to them in the Old Testament) – we who have a part to play in God’s plan just as they did
2. Compassed – surrounded
3. Onlookers, watchers, observers – we are being \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. By \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. By \_\_\_\_\_ – looking into
  - c. By the \_\_\_\_\_, some of which were listed in Chapter 11. They are watching us, and shouting when we succeed, and weeping when we fail!

##### B. Such an Important Race (12:1)

1. We are in the race whether we like it or not
2. We must run it to win (1Cor 9:24)
3. By laying aside TWO things
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ that beset (drag us down)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ – training – time to put off training and run the race
4. By patiently running – not walking, and especially not quitting – it is a long distance race
5. By looking unto our Example – Jesus
  - a. The author (\_\_\_\_\_) and finisher (\_\_\_\_\_) of our faith
  - b. He ran for joy (Ps 27:13)
  - c. He endured the cross – just as we must
    - 1) It is very difficult at times for us to bear our personal cross. If we are to successfully follow Jesus throughout our lifetime we must have before us a joyful hope. That hope must be anchored beyond the grave, that is, we must be willing to go through life and never experience the fulfillment of joy in the present world. Nevertheless it is good to hope for fulfillment even in this world.
    - 2) If the Christian walk is to be bearable we must have a hope of joy. We can find that hope only by spending much time before the Lord, walking with Him each day, as did Enoch. Jesus endured the cross by spending much time alone with God in prayer.
    - 3) We must pray for joy. We cannot endure the rigors of patient, cross-carrying obedience unless we are finding joy continually in the Presence of the Lord.
  - d. He \_\_\_\_\_ the shame of the cross – rejected it
  - e. He WON – is set down at the right hand of the Father
  - f. So, consider HIM

- 1) Take a good long look at how He acted and reacted to the contradictions of life and sinners
  - 2) Or else you will wear out in the race
- g. Go further – you haven't faced yet what HE faced – resisting unto blood. Unlike some of the heroes of faith, these Jews had not been required to shed their blood in the warfare against sin.

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (12:5-11)**

1. Quoting from Proverbs 3:11,12
2. Chastening
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 3:19)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ – whip, spank, slap
3. Chastening is an act of love by a parent toward the sinful nature of His children
  - a. If you do not correct and chasten your children, then you do not love them (Pr 13:24)!
4. God chastens \_\_\_\_\_ child in His family. It is how God deals with His children! It is not how He deals with the devil's children!
5. Despise not – don't faint, don't quit, don't get upset - Endure it
  - a. If you quit, God deals with you as a quitter
  - b. If you rebel, He has to deal with you as a rebel
  - c. If you endure and accept it, God deals with you as a maturing son
6. If you have no chastisement?
  - a. If you seem to never get into trouble for SIN
  - b. Then are you a \_\_\_\_\_ – an illegitimate child
  - c. You are not a child of God, but still a child of the devil
7. All our parents chastened us when we were growing up (at least they SHOULD have) – why would we think God would be any different?
  - a. We gave them reverence – we obeyed them and respected them BECAUSE of their correction – not just because of their love
  - b. Ought we not to reverence God the FATHER when He corrects us?
  - c. Our parents corrected us many times for \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure
  - d. But GOD always corrected us for our profit – our \_\_\_\_\_!  
CHASTENING by God is profitable!
8. No chastening is enjoyable, but grieving (12:11)
  - a. That's how it should be – it should not be a non-event
  - b. But after it is over, it should yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness in our lives
  - c. Unto them which are exercised – a good spanking, chastening gets you exercised!
  - d. It should wear out the chastened

**D. No One Left Behind (12:12-17)**

1. So, the rest of us should encourage and lift up the chastened (12:12,13)
  - a. Pick people up who have been chastened
  - b. Get them going on straight easy paths
  - c. Get them healed after the chastening – bound up and balmed

2. Follow peace with all men, AND holiness
  - a. They go hand in hand (Lk 2:14)
  - b. Without which no one shall see the Lord! (Mt 5:8; Eph 5:5)
3. Take Inventory of your self and of your heart, that no one fail of the grace of God
  - a. Through \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) Many deceivers seduce believers with promises of an easier way. Meanwhile the world, our bodily appetites, and our self-will all conspire to move us away from the Presence of God in Christ. Our task is to avoid all these, and to help others avoid them.
    - 2) "Bitter roots" spring up whenever someone thinks there are other ways of living than by the patient, cross-carrying discipleship of the true saint.
  - b. Through \_\_\_\_\_ – like Esau
    - 1) Esau is an examples of the person who gives his inheritance as a child of God in exchange for the temporary satisfaction of his bodily appetites.
    - 2) Whenever believers become careless in their pursuit of God's Person and will, immorality is likely to become prominent. The pressure of lust has been with mankind from ancient times, as we notice from the Old Testament. Lust is stronger than ever today and is one of the principal blights on civilization. Only the truly dedicated saint has enough power to conquer the invitations of demon-inspired bodily appetites.
    - 3) What was Esau unable to find?
      - a) A place of \_\_\_\_\_, the opportunity to change the decision he had made to sell his birthright.
      - b) We live in a society in which it often is possible to remedy a bad situation. If we have enough money, or power, or are skilful enough in lying, we are able to force of trick our way out of trouble.
      - c) It is not so with the Lord. No amount of money, or power, or trickery is of any help at all in extricating ourselves from the trouble and pain that fall on us when we turn away from the Lord and give ourselves to the things of the world.
      - d) Esau made a decision when he sold his birthright to Jacob for some lentil stew. That decision proved to be unalterable. The agony Esau experienced after his appetite was satisfied did not change his situation, nor will a Jew's (or any unsaved person's) personal agony in the days to come alter their situation if they exchange their birthright (the Jewish nation have a birthright that they can forfeit) for the temporary security and pleasures of the world.
  - c. Never allow deception or lust to remove yourself from the daily walk of holiness and consecration to God's will.
4. To fail of God's grace is to \_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_ it when it was there for you!
5. There is coming a time when it is too late to get right
6. The idea here is to get to the finished line \_\_\_\_\_ as a nation, with no one failing or falling behind and being left behind!

#### E. The Two Mountains (12:18-27)

1. Two Mountains are described
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ – Shows God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The Hebrews came to the first and blew it there

- d. They do not need to run away again! The New Jerusalem IS WHERE ISRAEL IS HEADED, as are all believers!!!
2. Mount Sinai (12:18-21)
- A physical mountain that Israel headed to when they were freed from Egypt
  - Burned like a volcano - Fire, blackness, darkness, tempest - earthquakes
  - Loud noises – trumpet, voice
  - It was terrifying to see and hear and even be near this mountain!
  - If anything touched the mountain it was to be destroyed!
  - THAT is how holy God and His presence is! No wonder Moses was worried, and Jacob, and Manoah (Jdg 13:22)!
3. New Jerusalem (12:22-27)
- The Hebrews now have come to seven things:
  - To a \_\_\_\_\_ mountain
    - Because of the Messiah, Israel is now supposed to be heading to a better mountain than Sinai!
    - Mount Sion – Mount Zion – God’s Heaven (Ps 2:6; 9:11; 48:1,2; 50:2; 125:1)
    - Earthly Jerusalem is referred to as Zion (Ps 51:18)
    - New Jerusalem is referred to also as Zion, but called “heavenly zion” etc.
    - So, Paul is referring to the city of the New Jerusalem in heaven!
  - They have come to an innumerable company of \_\_\_\_\_
  - To the general assembly and \_\_\_\_\_ of the firstborn
    - All New Testament believers will be part of THAT church
    - The firstborn is JESUS
  - To \_\_\_\_\_ the Judge of all
  - To the \_\_\_\_\_ of just men made perfect – Old Testament saints (Lk 8:15). Remember, Job was a righteous man. His experience with the Lord perfected him.
  - To \_\_\_\_\_ the mediator of the new covenant
  - And to the \_\_\_\_\_ of sprinkling
    - Jesus’ blood is in heaven right now and always will be
    - It speaks presently, just like Abel’s does, but Jesus’ blood says better things than that of Abel!
4. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh – present tense!
- What God said at Mount Sinai was to be obeyed!
  - So also today!
  - The very voice of God will one day shake everything that can be shaken

**F. The Kingdom of Heaven (12:28,29)**

- An unshakeable kingdom
- The kingdom of heaven is 1,000 years long, but only the beginning!
- Let’s live under God’s GRACE, not back under the Law
- And serve God
  - In an acceptable manner
  - With reverence and godly fear
- For the God of the Jews is STILL a consuming fire! Never changed

III. Questions from Chapter Twelve

- A. What people make up the cloud of witnesses that is surrounding each Christian today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. What should we do in view of the fact that such people are witnessing what we are doing today? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. To whom should we be looking every moment? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. By what means was Jesus able to endure the cross, despising the shame?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- E. Where is the Lord Jesus now? \_\_\_\_\_
- F. What did Jesus endure from sinners? \_\_\_\_\_
- G. What exhortation had the Hebrew Christians forgotten? \_\_\_\_\_
- H. How is the Christian to regard chastening? \_\_\_\_\_
- I. What is true of us if we do not experience Divine discipline?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- J. Why does God discipline us? \_\_\_\_\_
- K. What is true of chastening while it is being administered?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- L. What does Divine discipline yield? \_\_\_\_\_
- M. What will be true if we do not pursue a holy life?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- N. What should we be watching for constantly?
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- O. What was Esau unable to find? \_\_\_\_\_
- P. What was God revealing on Mount Sinai? \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. The Hebrews now have come to seven things:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7. \_\_\_\_\_