

3. Despising the shame, yet not allowing the shame to stop him: the shame involved what he suffered at the hand of men and the hand of God, the judge of all the earth.

4. Since Christ triumphantly endured, He was rewarded with the exalted position at the right hand of God.

THE RACE WE WILL CONSIDER THIS MORNING **IS YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY OF FAITH.** We begin in Hebrews 10:12

Mark Minnick states, the book of Hebrews has a central, two-part message as follows:

Part #1 *Jesus Christ* has entirely *finished the the faith*. “*The faith*” refers to all that God requires of people for them to be reconciled to Him. All is done. No one can add or contribute any other thing to the saving work Christ has completely accomplished. Thus Christ “*sat down*” at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” *Christ finished the faith*: This, Hebrews 1:1-10:18, is part #1 of the message of the book of Hebrews. **Read 10:12,14**

Part #2 *Be faithful to the finished work*: 10:19-13:25: “let us” 10:22; “let us” 10:23; “let us”10:24. Doing these things is what it means to be faithful to the finished work. Our movements summarized in 10:19-25, and expanded in 10:26-13:25, are what it means to run the race of Christian living.

The particular point that the Holy Spirit is driving at in today's text, Hebrews 12:1-3, is *endurance*. SEE VS. 1,2,3: **READ**

I. We must grasp the concept of the Christian life as a race :

A. The emphasis is going from point to point and finally to a goal.

The emphasis in this race is not speed, or overtaking the fellow next to us.

B. The particular point that the Holy spirit is driving at in Hebrews 12:1-3, is *endurance*. What would that look like?

Chapter 11 is a gallery of persons who have done this—moved from point to point towards a goal: “**also**” 12:1, surely The Holy Spirit wants us to consider them.

C. The gallery of persons mentioned in chapter 11 are persons who Hebrews 11:2 says, “obtained a good testimony”.

These persons are not held out before you to let you know that they are watching you.

Far more the opposite: we are cheered on watching them, we are not cheered on because they are watching us. Probably they are watching us very little if at all.

The persons mentioned in chapter 11 are who, “obtained a good testimony”. And are profitable for you to consider.

Our sermon this morning is “Ready Runners” we are noticing first of all **We must grasp the concept of the Christian life as a race:**

the spiritual movement requires endurance—spiritual strength that is durable.

There is one main verb in this passage: “Run”. This race begins at conversion and ends? Hebrews 2:10, 18 Some of the terrain of this race includes “suffering” and “being tempted.” Some give up the race because of this.

This race is your personal faith journey with an emphasis on endurance: 12:1, 2, 3 remaining faithful under pressure.

II. Awareness in the race: “Success in the race is based on a double awareness.” Robert Gromacki

A. An awareness of what others have done:

1. 11:7 Noah moved—with total assurance of what was coming because God said so. Had He ever seen rain? Or even a sea-going vessel? An heir of righteousness is a recipient of imputed righteousness.

2. 11:11 Sarah received strength to conceive and bore a child because

she judged Him faithful who promised.

What is remarkable is that she demonstrated no faith at all when the announcement was made concerning her; she laughed at the apparent absurdity.

3. 11:30 walls of Jericho fell down—HOW? Nothing happened to the walls during the first six days, why logically should seven more time with trumpets bring them down?

Faith is relying on God to do what he promised to do.

B. The second part of the needed double awareness is awareness of what we must do: Ready Runners travel light

Lay aside every weight and the sin... **Lawful things and evil things are in view.** This race is so vital that everything that impedes it should be laid aside. Wearied in your mind describes a process which may lead to giving up the race.

Ready runners need a nurturing of faith and fresh commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Be faithful to the finished faith by looking to Jesus as the model runner:

choosing not to exercise His divine abilities, limiting Himself to be our substitute. At 12 Luke 2:49 At 30 Luke 3:21-23 Mark 1:35

Four features of Christ's praiseworthy endurance

1. who for the joy set before Him: same grammar as vs.1 “set before us” The joy was the anticipation of the salvation of lost men and women, boys and girls—under new heavens on a new earth.

2. “endured the cross” the shameful death, w/ its extreme embarrassment, the pain, and the mockery.

