

The Gospel Marathon *Hebrews 12:1-2*

The authors of the NT books, especially Paul often pictured the Christian life like a _____
Hebrews 12:1-2 are like the words of an experienced _____ at the commencement of a marathon

I. _____ from the Crowd of Witnesses

Just the presence of a huge crowd in the stadium cheering you on gives you _____
“Therefore” at the beginning of verse 1 identifies these “witnesses” as _____

A. They Encourage Us by Their _____

These witnesses are not spectators, but give _____: “I did it by God’s grace; you can too”

B. They Instruct Us by Their _____

If we study their stories in the Bible, we will be warned not to _____ where they fell into sin

II. _____ to Finish the Marathon

A. We Must Lay Aside Every _____

1) Weight can equal _____ weight; a serious runner should weight 2 lbs per inch of height
Body weight = the _____ of life: they must not press out time for spiritual necessities

2) Weight can equal any kind of external burden: runners wear the lightest _____ and clothes
External weight = matters of _____: our use of liberty must not hinder our progress in the race

B. We Must Deal with the _____ which so Easily Ensnares Us

1) “Beset” or “ensnares” = Something that does a good job of _____ around in front of us

2) Marathons are run on city _____ where there are always potholes, drains, wet leaves, etc.

3) To run the marathon well, we must deal with the sins that we are constantly _____

III. Advice from the _____

A. Run the Race with _____

1) A marathon is 26.2 miles and often the battle is just to _____ the race: All who finish win!

2) The ultimate evidence that God has truly saved us is that we endure to the _____ of the race

B. Run the Race Set Before Us

1) The route of a marathon is laid out by the organizers: runners cannot go wherever they _____

2) _____ determines our lot in life and we must faithfully run the route He sets before us

IV. Focus on the Ultimate _____

A. The _____ of our Faith

1) In this context “Author” is better translated _____

2) We are to conform every action, word, thought and motive to our _____ Jesus Christ

B. The _____ of our Faith

1) Jesus finished our faith by dying on the cross and _____ from the dead

2) But “Finisher” also means One who enables _____ to reach the goal and finish the race

3) We must keep our eyes on Jesus; we must _____ on His grace to faithfully finish the race