

TO MAKE US FIT FOR HEAVEN

Wednesday Gathering; Hebrews 12:1-1; Week of Sunday, August 8, 2021; Richie Pendred

God's children are called to persevere by faith in Jesus especially when faced with trials, laying aside sin and trained by God's purposeful discipline. We are to strive for holiness as we run hard together, that we would reach the finish line and behold the Lord our God!

I. Glorious Example of Endurance – Read Hebrews 12:1-3

- A. According to Hebrews 12:1, what is the “therefore” in reference to? Who is the great cloud of witnesses that are surrounding us and why are they significant to the context of Hebrews 12?

- B. What are two ways that Jesus is depicted as our example? Based on verses 2-3, what are some examples of the cost of persevering in the faith and the prize for persevering in the faith?

- C. Based on verse 1, what are some of the sins and weights that you need to lay aside to run well? What do you think the process looks like to put off sin and to put on righteousness?

II. Painful Purpose of Discipline – Read Hebrews 12:4-11

- A. Why do you think the author places so much emphasis on forgetting our sonship (vv.4-8)?

- B. Why do you think God disciplines His children? How does this encourage the Christian?

- C. Compare and contrast the earthly father and the heavenly father. How does the lesser-to-greater argument intensify the good work that God is doing in the Christian's life? As you think about it, what does the fruit of righteousness look like in a person's life? How would you describe it?

- D. When are you most prone to forget that God's disciplines you for your own good? How does this truth reorient your understanding of every trial and difficulty that you encounter in life?

III. Critical Call for Perseverance – Read Hebrews 12:12-14

- A. Hebrews 12:12-13 has some very interesting language. What do you think it means to lift your droopy hands and strengthen your weak knees or to make straight your paths so that what is lame might be healed? Why might these ideas look like in your daily life to pursue holiness?

- B. If there was one sin issue that you would like to put to death, what would it be and why?

- C. Verse 14 says, “Strive for holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” How does this work with salvation by faith alone? How does this idea motivate you to live a godly life?