

# RUN WITH ENDURANCE

(05/28/2023; Life Group; Hebrews 12:1-3; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

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**Sermon Theme:** Believers in Christ are empowered to run the race of faith with endurance, which may include persecution, by laying aside everything that hinders them, by following Jesus' example, and by looking forward to the joy of being in His presence, where there will be pleasures forevermore!

## **I. Command to Run – Read Hebrews 12:1a**

- A. Read Hebrews 12:1. What is the purpose of the “therefore” found at the beginning of the verse? How does Hebrews 12:1 connect to what the author has argued in chapter 11?
- B. Read Hebrews 2:1, 3:12, and 5:12. What are we told about the condition of the Church?
- C. Why is comparing the Christian life to a race such an appropriate analogy for the author's audience? How is it helpful for Christians today? How does it apply to your life?

## **II. Strategy to Run – Read Hebrews 12:1b-2**

- A. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What is the command given to the reader in this section?
- B. Why does the author tell us to lay aside every weight and the sin which clings so closely? What effects do sin and weights have on our spiritual races? How do they affect our ability to run with endurance the race that is set before us?
- C. As you evaluate your own life, what sin tends to entangle you the most? What “weights” tend to hinder you from delighting yourself in the Lord Jesus, loving people in the church, sharing the gospel, serving and sacrificing for the good of others, and pursuing personal holiness?
- D. How would you like to grow in “considering the joy set before us” in a similar manner to the Lord Jesus and His consideration of joy that awaited Him?

## **III. Application to Run – Read Hebrews 12:3**

- A. What is the goal and finish line of the Christian race? How does the finish line intensify our desire to cast off everything that slows us down or hinders us from running the race of faith?
- B. Read Hebrews 12:3. What is the author's purpose for the audience “considering Jesus” in the race of faith? How would you evaluate your current level of weariness?
- C. What “running plan” could you put in place for the summer that would help enable you, empower you, and motivate you to run with greater endurance the race of faith?