

Endurance to Run the Race

Hebrews 12:1-3

Introduction

- **Someone said, “Life is not a 100 meter dash; it is a marathon!”**
 - The 100 meter event is celebrated as the “fastest” man/woman in the world (Usain Bolt – Jamaica: 9.58sec.).
 - The marathon is celebrated as the man/woman who has the **endurance** to complete the 26.2 miles in first place. They are heralded for their endurance.
- **The author of Hebrews likens the Christian life to a race.**
 - It’s not a 100 meter dash.
 - It’s a marathon!

Interpretation

- **We are to run a race ...**
 - The reason: we have a great cloud of **witnesses** surrounding us (Ch. 11)
 - Abel
 - Enoch
 - Noah
 - Abraham/Isaac
 - Note the succession in the race: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and on it goes! Each finished his/her race.
 - The preparation: by laying aside ...
 - Every **hindrance**
 - Any **sin** that can ensnare
 - We are to run the **race that has been set before us!** Prescribed course. Get off course and be disqualified!
 - We are to run the race with **endurance** (10:36)
 - We are to run the race with our **eyes fixed on Jesus** (no distractions) – He finished His race
 - Because of Who He is:
 - He is the Author of our faith
 - He is the completer of our faith
 - Because of what He has done:
 - He endured the Cross
 - He despised its shame

- For the “joy” set before Him (His race)
- He is at the right of the throne of God – “It is finished.”
- Because of His example: He endured hostility against Himself: what He will do for us in the race:
- So we will not grow weary
- So we will not lose heart