

## 015 Hebrews 12:1-17 A Great Cloud of Witnesses in [Edward Rangel](#)

### Pre-Service Loop

0 slides in 0 items • 0s

### Warm-up

0 slides in 0 items • 0s

### Service

70 slides in 40 items

#### Title



#### How much better

Hebrews 1-11: How much better the New than the Old

- O.T. priesthood, High Priest Jesus
- Physical Promised Land, Heaven
- Animal sacrifices, Perfect Lamb
- Salvation was made attainable by Jesus' blood

#### How much better

Hebrews 1-11

- Described a mountain climb
- Backward and downward
- Hebrews 12 looks forward and upward

Hebrews 12 talks about a great cloud of witnesses - this is what makes heaven!

Mountain climb from Old Testament things and now we have made it to the top, the mountain peak.

In Hebrews 11 we saw the great men and women of faith, now we've made it to the top and see Jesus see heaven! in Hebrews 12.

Hebrews 1-11 was looking backwards and downward (back to Old Testament and downward to a physical reward)

Hebrews 12 looks forward and upward to the heavenly reward

Great cloud of witnesses - what makes heaven are not the things (streets of gold), but the people there. A family makes a home.

#### Cloud of Witnesses

Cloud of Witnesses

- Not spectators cheering us on, but witnesses giving testimony
- Catholics call on these witnesses as saints for help
- Fix your eyes not on the witnesses but on Jesus

Cloud of Witnesses

Not spectators cheering us on, but witnesses giving testimony

The encouragement we get from the witnesses is that it can be done!

#### Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Hebrews 12:1-3

## Hebrews 3:1

1 Therefore, holy brethren,  
partakers of a heavenly calling,  
**consider Jesus**, the Apostle and  
High Priest of our confession;

Hebrews 3:1

## Hebrews 11:24-27

24 By faith Moses, when he had  
grown up, refused to be called  
the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

Hebrews 11:24-27

## Let Us

Let Us

- Now that we have reached the mountain peak
- Lay aside every encumbrance
- Every **SIN**'s that besets us
- Run with endurance (my friend Percy)

Let Us

Now that we have reached the mountain peak

Now what? Take pictures?

Lay aside every encumbrance

Not every encumbrance is sinful - these may be relationships, employment, sports, etc...

Every **SIN** that besets us - these are plural

Run with endurance (my friend Percy)

Note that God has not called us to be an Abraham, Moses, Rahab, but to run MY race that is set before ME

## Consider Jesus

Consider Jesus (12:3)

- Saints can't help us
- Only Jesus

Consider Jesus

## 4 Points

Four Points to Consider (12:1-17)

1. Perseverance
2. Pattern
3. Persecution
4. Suffer more as a Christian than as a non-believer

Consider Jesus

## Perseverance

### Perseverance

- Run with endurance
  - Be stripped
  - Be stretched
  - Things that slow down, cause a handicap
  - Rich young ruler

## Philippians 3:14

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

## 2 Timothy 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2 Timothy 4:7

## John 19:30

30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

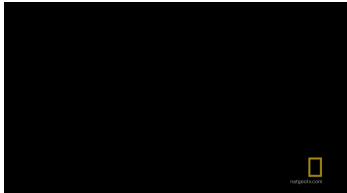
John 19:30

## Perseverance

### Perseverance

- Run with endurance
  - Get rid of SIN(s) that beset us

## How To Survive Quicksand Primal...



Idea is of running through clay, all sin will hold you back and eventually disqualify you (12:12)

## Hebrews 12:12

12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

Hebrews 12:12

## Pattern

## Pattern

- Fix your eyes on Jesus - the goal
  - Plow (Lk. 9:62)
  - Jesus ran the race and won at 33
  - Look forward
- Jesus is:
  - Author of faith
  - Perfecter of faith

## Pattern

Fix your eyes on Jesus - the goal

Plow (Lk. 9:62)

Jesus ran the race and won at 33

Look forward

Jesus is:

Author of faith

Perfecter of faith

Jesus got to the end of the course and will get me to the end of the course.

## Part 2



## The Passion of the Christ the best...



## Hebrews 12:1-17

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Hebrews 12:1-17

## 4 Points

## Four Points to Consider (12:1-17)

1. Perseverance
2. Pattern
3. Persecution
4. Suffer more as a Christian than as a non-believer

## Consider Jesus

## Persecution



## Jesus as an Example

## Jesus as an Example

- Jesus finished the course, but was persecuted during the race
  - 12:2- endured the cross
  - "I know you can do anything..."
  - "I don't want this pain..."
  - "I want Your will not Mine..."

## Isaiah 53:3-5

3 He was **despised** and **forsaken** of men, A man of **sorrows** and **acquainted with grief**; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Isaiah 53:3-5

The prophet spoke of how much Jesus would be persecuted by His own countrymen, and then the Romans.

Jesus knew the race, saw the starting line, the course and the finish line. He knew the obstacles that would be in His way and all the stumbling blocks that would be used to destroy Him. Even so, at the sound of the starting gun He plowed right through! (Philippians 2:3-11)

There are many who cannot or are not willing to run the race, but as soon as they find out that you are in the race will do everything they can to disqualify you. They will persecute you, they will malign you, just like they did Christ.

Remember that we are past Hebrews 11 where we talked about the great men and women of faith who ran the race with endurance. We have reached the summit, the mountaintop and now we focus our eyes not on men, not on women, but on JESUS who is the Author (Originator) and Perfecter of faith (Hebrews 2:2)

So, be ready for persecution, be ready for scoffers, be ready for roadblocks - in the form of diseases, divorces, disasters- but never take your eyes off the ultimate example of the One who finished the race because of the joy that was set before Him. And that joy would be to sit at the right hand of God the Father!

For Christianity there will always be a cross. Jesus was a very sensitive man. Isaiah says that He despised that He was despised. When you can say I despise being despised then you can say you have won the race.

It's not easy being laughed at

It's not easy being persecuted

It's not easy to look undignified

But to the world we look silly and undignified

## Philippians 2:5–13, Hebrews 12:2

The race they ran was about coming forward with their own "testimony" the words of Christ, who never really left the air of his world. They ran it all the way. After the contest is over, who comes before the finish line? He who was before the "finish" did not know that, but for the purpose of coming forward with words that he might be rewarded to finish.

Philippians 2:5–7 (NASB95)

Jesus kept running the race because of the joy set before Him

## Right Hand of God



## Compare Your Suffering With Chri...

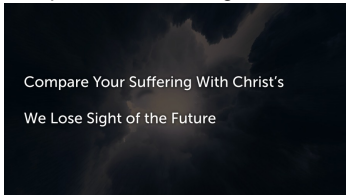


## Compare Your Suffering With Chri...

## Compare Your Suffering With Christ's

- Have you suffered to the extent Jesus has?
- Then don't grow weary to the point of being disqualified
- When you experience any negative issues in life compare to Christ - not too bad then

## Compare Your Suffering With Chri...



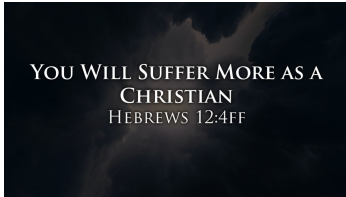
We lose sight of the future

Jesus looked not only to the finish line, but at the reward on the other side of the finish line - the throne.

We need to run not with our eyes fixed on the finish line but on the reward!

Illustration of when I was a track coach- almost all beginner runners run fast, extremely fast until they reach the finish line, they slow down! And, if the race is a close one, they lose the race because they slowed down at the finish line. When I trained with 4-H we trained horses to never see a finish line, but to see a reward.

## You Will Suffer More as a Christian



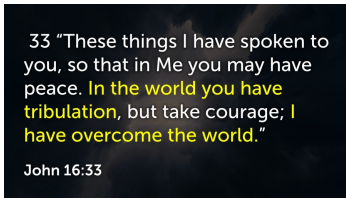
"Come to Jesus and all your troubles will be over."

Jesus came to Jesus and His troubles got worse!

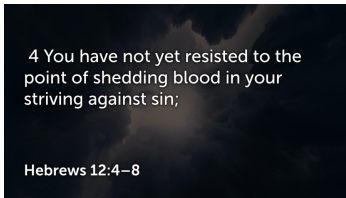
The idea that coming to Jesus will make you life in this world easy is a satanic lie. We will suffer more than ever because now the satanic forces are against us. However, the promise is that Jesus has overcome the world and so can we.

If Jesus is the author and perfecter of the salvation He is our guide to do the same.

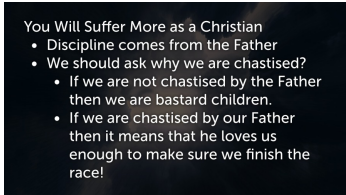
## John 16:33



## Hebrews 12:4-8



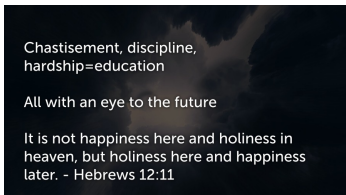
## You Will Suffer More as a Christian



Father of a 10 year old boy in court said to the judge: "I can't do a thing with the boy," The judge said, "Maybe if you had done something with him when he was 5 you wouldn't be in this predicament now."

God's fatherhood is true fatherhood and it disciplines.

## You Will Suffer More as a Christian



Psalm 119:67-68

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. 68 You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

Psalm 119:67-68

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No Stragglers

**NO STRAGGLERS**  
HEBREWS 12:12FF

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Hebrews 12:12

12 **THEREFORE**, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, *(I should want to help others to run and finish the race too!)*

Hebrews 12:12

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## No Stragglers

No Stragglers - It is a group effort

- vss. 12-13 running as a body
- vs. 15 one person can poison the entire race
- vs. 14 all must do part in pursuing peace and harmony
- vss. 16-17 all must be team players, not like Esau

vss. 12-13 running as a body

vs. 15 one person can poison the entire race

vs. 14 all must do part in pursuing peace and harmony

vss. 16-17 all must be team players, not like Esau

Esau was a big, hairy man, a hunter. First in line for the blessing.

Out he came from his mother's womb first and his twin brother second holding on to him by the ankle.

Esau was in the running for the blessing, and so was Jacob.

One day Esau saw a plate of beans and was faced with a choice- a choice that many young people are faced with- a choice between right now or later.

The visible and invisible.

Between something that is only a promise and something you can actually have.

Between the spiritual and the physical.

Between the spirit and the flesh.

Esau made the fatal choice that moment. He was out of the running. He should have been the father of Israel, he was the 1st born.

But he was disqualified from running.

1 Cor. 9:27 ; "but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

Esau could not wait to run the race with patience, he could not run with endurance, he could not wait, he wanted his beans now not later. Jacob, on the other hand was patient enough to run the race with patience and he received the blessing.

Esau was the root of bitterness.

Esau was immoral

Esau was idolatrous

After Esau was rejected (disqualified) he wanted his blessing and all the tears and vows of vengeance could not get it back, he found no place for repentance.

Esau regretted but could never repent. Someone can regret the consequences of being disqualified but not change their mind of what happened. And this is what happened to Esau.

This is the tragedy when we get disqualified from the race. We cannot drop off and drop in of the race at will. God cannot be mocked!

Galatians 6:7

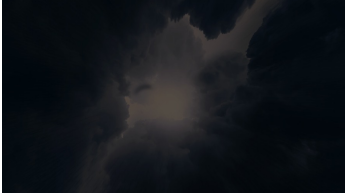
7 Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Galatians 6:7

Post-Service Loop

4 slides in 4 items • 20s

3



2



Content



Bible

