

Christ Community Covenant Church
“Run the Race with Endurance” Hebrews 12:1-13
Pastor Curt Vogt - May 31, 2015

Intro: Running Illustration . both weeks . using the familiar to teach
Recap last week's illustration . Run for the Prize . %get in that winning group+
- discipline
- purpose/intention (focus)
- use a trainer

Still using a running analogy . different aspect or thrust . from Hebrews

Quickie background on Hebrews	- author unknown
	- written to Jewish Christians
	- main theme of Hebrews = Christ is supreme
	- secondary theme = exhortation & encouragement

~ Passage . Hebrews 12:1-13 . READ

Main Emphasis . %win with perseverance the race marked out for us+(vs. 1c)
Perseverance or endurance or patience or persistence or %otta last+kind of feel

Our life race is long . its easy to become discouraged or defeated or lose heart
(Hebrews audience faced persecution and suffering)
Hang in There!

*** You can stay encouraged in your race (your life as a Jesus follower) if you keep in mind these things:**

1) Throw Off Entanglements (vs. 1b) - anything that hinders

illustration from last week . costumed runners, hard to run well
consider Jesusparable of the soils (Luke 8) . things to throw off that hinder
%borns+that inhibit growth - *life's worries *riches *pleasures

Some hindrances are not specifically sinful

Some hindrances are sinful

Crossover from last week's illustration . discipline . do some things, don't do some things

Sin can also be others'sin, sin in general (e.g. persecution of Christians) . let it go

2) God Disciplines those He Loves (vs. 4-13)

This discipline is an indication and reminder that we are God's children . He loves us!

He is not trying to knock you out of the race but rather strengthening, training, bringing you along

The encouragement of discipline (vs. 5 & 6; 10 & 11)

Discipline is crucial to your race . crossover from last week again . discipline

3) Many Others Have Gone Before You (vs. 1a) . faithful God followers

Chapter 11 . exhorting by mentioning heroes of faith

%Great cloud of witnesses+

Lots of them . stadium full of them

Righteous, holy

More than spectators . encouragers, empathizers, relaters, cheer leaders, coaches, trainers

Witnesses = testifiers, martyrs . they %speak+to the value of tarrying on in faith

~ Bolder Boulder illustration . ending in a stadium (Folsom Field)

4) Fix Your Eyes of Jesus (vs. 2a)

Pioneer . author . champion . leader

Perfector of faith . fulfiller . completer

Our ultimate role model

Look what He endured . cross, shame, weight of sin (vs. 2b)

Think He might have been discouraged??

Focus on Him (crossover from last week's illustration)

Not just %eyes on the prize+. as fulfiller He is the goal/prize

BUT also constantly with us . grab His hand

His example helps us not grow weary or lose heart (vs. 3)

Comment: this isn't just an emotional, surface . y kind of encouragement

It's a tangible, spiritual encouragement

%You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart +

Wrap Up: Paul comments on finishing well in 2 Timothy 4:7 . he persevered, endured

We can too . we can make it to the end

Community Group Questions

1. What are some things that tend to discourage us in our race (i.e. our lives as Jesus followers)? Are there some ways the contemporary church is suffering or being persecuted?
2. Are you running in a banana suit? (weak attempt at humor) The message made reference to Jesus comparable of the soils. What are some other hindrances from the Bible that we should throw off? (These can be sinful or not specifically sinful.) When we see sinfulness around us (e.g. the Hebrews experiencing persecution) that discourages us, is it hard to let it go? Should we let it go? What can we do to help one another with this?
3. Does it make sense that God disciplining us should encourage us? Why or why not? How have you experienced discipline working well?
4. Who are some %heroes of faith+that have inspired you? (non-biblical ones, too) How can they encourage us when we're getting weary?
5. The message suggested that %fixing your eyes on Jesus+had implications of Jesus being both the prize (at the end of our race) and a constant encourager along the way. Which one seems more significant to you? What are some ways we can grab onto Jesus' hand as we're racing?
6. Running a race as an illustration for our Christian lives was used a lot for these two weeks. Are there other illustrations for life as a Jesus follower that work for you?