

Our Focus: Jesus

Heb 12:1-13

1. Intro

1. Our Hebrews theme is all about Jesus
2. We see that Jesus is central and that as we seek to be holy He guides and corrects us in our walk.
3. Therefore: reflects back on the men and women listed as faithful.
 1. We are now called to act on what we know

2. Jesus Central

1. We are called to keep our eyes fixed on Him (2a)
2. He has entered into the sanctuary (2c)
 1. Available every moment to help us in time of need.
 2. Having himself lived by faith, he is able to impart that faith to others. We live in His strength (Phil 4:13)
 3. This ministry of help for us is the joy set before him for which he endured the cross.
 1. It meant more to Jesus than his own well being, probably even more than the joy of returning to his Father and the glory of heaven.
 2. For the joy of "bringing many sons to glory," He gave himself up to agony and death and counted it a small price to pay. (Heb 2:10)
 4. Redemption requires power, and now from the place of ultimate power he can "save those who come to God through him." (Heb 7:25)

3. Our Witnesses

1. Therefore:
2. They are witnesses in the sense of bearing testimony that the race can be run successfully and that the rewards are great.
 1. They looked forward to something that was eternal
3. We are entering a race that is one of endurance, not a sprint
 1. We need to strip off the things that weigh us down (1b)
 1. Pride, anger, bitterness, jealousy, selfishness, lethargy, anxiety
 1. These will slow or stop our race.
 2. If we take away these hindrances, the Spirit of holiness will be free to work in us.
 2. But the primary block to gaining the prize is the sin that so easily entangles.
 1. Persistent unbelief – let us not take God's Word lightly.
 3. With Christ as his life, by the Spirit (Eph 3:16-19)
 1. The runner will be able to withstand growing weary and dropping out of the race and so losing the prize.

4. Our Correction (7-11)

1. We are in training for holiness; to be approved by Jesus.
 1. We are being trained for eternity, and the training needs to suit the destiny.
 2. The believer is made right with Jesus because of His work on the Cross.

1. But it is also imperative that we be involved in the process of becoming holy. (1 Pet. 1:15, 16)
 1. Developing our character and how we walk daily with Him.
 2. Our heart must be concerned, not to escape the trials of life, but to profit by them.
2. Thus is God's word profitable (2 Tim. 3:16).
2. Jesus will be perfecting His sons and bring many to glory (Heb 2:10)

5. Our Encouragement

1. Deal first with yourselves. (12)
2. Watch your influence on others. (13)
 1. Take care that you are not a stumbling block to those who travel with you, whose faith may be much weaker than yours.

6. Conclusion

1. Our eyes must be kept upon Jesus
 1. He went down this same hard road to come into the very presence of God.
2. We are not alone
 1. others before you have won through; others are on the way; you are not alone;
 2. We need to press on and we will reach the goal and win the prize.