

Trinity C. U. June 6, 2010, P.M. Hebrews 12:1-17

WOW! This instruction follows the definition of "faith" in 11:1-3 and then the demonstration of faith by the list of "faith" followers of Jehovah. Some of the "faith followers" achieved some miraculous goals.... while others endured great persecution and even a martyr's death.

Now in chapter 12 we have an application of "faith followers" of all ages. See the "wherefore".... it's just like the "Therefore" in many places..... This "faith" in God is the firm foundation for everything that makes this life worth the living.... and those who "acted" on this faith found there was VICTORY..... Let's Look.....

### **I. THE PREPARATION of GOD FOR YOU.. (vs. 1)**

\* The "cloud of witnesses" provide example and inspiration for you and me in the NOW...

#### A. Lay Aside Every Weight...

- The weight?? what is crooked... hooked... a hindrance... anything that would obstruct our progress...
- The "What"... lay it aside, cast it off, don't allow hindrances in you life

#### B. Deal With Every Sin....

- The sin which easily besets you (me)
  - "sin" is missing the mark, crossing the line,
  - which "easily besets" you.... it is all around you and "trips" you...
    - could come from your temperament.... unless you are living a "Spirit Controlled" life
    - could be from the sinful lifestyle of the past...
    - could come from the daily work situations...
    - could come from some character weakness.... Satan knows them all... and is your adversary!!!

\* SO... CAST AWAY THE "WEIGHTS"..... DEAL WITH SIN THAT "BESETS" YOU...

### **II. THE PLAN of GOD FOR YOU.... (vs. 1)**

#### A. There Is A "RACE" Set Before Us

- You will notice that all the acts of faith were different for each of the "heroes" of faith!
- You will be guided by The Holy Spirit as you seek to walk in obedience to Him...
  - Don't be conformed to this world... be transformed... THAT... Rom.12:2
  - You will be hungering and thirsting for "righteousness"... Imputed and Personal...

#### B. There Is A Race To Be RUN.... it's not a sprint.... or a 100 yard dash.... or even a marathon....

- To "Run"..... speaks of direction... energy.... effort...
- To Run with "perseverance"... endurance... steadfastness..... it's a life long journey with Jesus!!
  - Don't let anything detour you from your Loyalty to THE TRUTH... and FAITH IN IT!!
  - Not even the greatest trials or sufferings... 2Cor.4:6 - 11; Gal.6:9
  - Not the greatest prosperity you may enjoy....

\* BUT... YOU SAY.... "HOW" ??

### **III. THE POWER of GOD FOR YOU.....**

#### A. Where Is The Power?? LOOKING TO JESUS...

- Keep Looking... fasten your attention upon Him...

#### B. Why Is There Power?? BECAUSE HE IS...

- Jesus is the "author" of faith... (archegos) architect, designer, planner,...
- Jesus is the "finisher" of faith...
  - He designed the Faith race...
  - He lived the Faith race...
    - Jesus despised the shame of the cross... thought little of the disgrace...
    - Jesus endured the cross.... (basically the same word as "patience")
  - He Finished the Faith race... (teleoites) His word from the cross!!
  - He is set down at the right hand of the THRONE of God... divine Power Belongs To HIM!!!!!!
- Jesus is the fulfillment the Joy of faith...
  - It was for the joy set before Him... He endured...