

Hebrews 12:1

RUN THE RACE

- I. That we run.
 - A. The figure is of a foot race – cross-country type as ran in the Grecian games.
 - 1. The runners had a definite goal to reach: the victor's crown.
 - 2. The contestants would prepare themselves for this race, enduring the necessary pain.
 - 3. On the day of the race they exerted themselves to the utmost on the prescribed course.
 - B. The spiritual reality is the spiritual race toward the prize of heaven in which every elect believer runs.
 - 1. The child of God is given to see that he is regenerated unto a living hope for an inheritance reserved in heaven: eternal life!
 - 2. Thus our purpose does not end at death, but is rather then realized completely.
 - C. Some cautions.
- II. How we are to run.
 - A. The “cloud of witnesses” evidenced right running in their lives, when they consciously lived “by faith.”
 - B. We are to live our lives dominated by the high purpose of reaching the goal the Father promises His children.
 - 1. We are reveal ourselves to be God's children (like His Son) in every sphere of life.
 - 2. We are to exert ourselves strenuously fighting the battle of faith in order to attain this glorious goal.
 - 3. We are to work out our own salvation, denying ourselves whatever might hinder us from to goal of serving our God.
 - C. Those in this race are willing, in order to reach the goal, to lay aside all that is non-essential.
 - 1. We are to “lay aside every weight.”
 - 2. Also we are to lay aside “the sin which doth so easily beset us,” i.e., each of us have a kind of sin we easily fall into.
 - D. We are to run with “patience.”
 - 1. Do not be discouraged, but persevere to go through this life and to do so patiently.
 - 2. Patience is the activity of enduring, continuing to put forth every effort, because we know Christ is with us.