

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

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SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **HEBREWS 12:1-8**

Hebrews 12:1-2, Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message August 8, 2021

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. When we get to **Hebrews Chapter 11 thru 13**, we find a second major division in this book.
- b. In the first part of **Chapters 1 thru 10** it deals with the doctrinal aspect, whereas **Chapter 11** starts the practical aspect.
- c. **Chapter 11** can be considered the chapter of faith; **Chapter 12** is considered the chapter of hope and then **Chapter 13** is the chapter of love.
- d. We are now dealing with the practical aspect of the Christian life.
- e. Faith is so important until God decides in **Chapter 11** to give us the heroes of faith.
- f. The reason we mention them now is because **Chapter 12** starts off talking about the cloud of witnesses. These are the ones who have run the Christian race beginning in the Garden of Eden and following through to this present time.
- g. As a matter of fact, God's people need encouragement. These witnesses are the one who will provide encouragement to us. **Hebrews 11:13, These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**
- h. Anytime we get weary we need to take the rule book which is the Preserved Word of God and turn back to **Chapter 11**.
- i. Many believers want the Christian life to be one of rules and regulations.
- j. People flock and put themselves under the Ten Commandments and submit to the Sermon on the Mount because they love rules. It seems simpler to obey the rules.
- k. God has given us a different perspective for Christian living and tells us we are to walk by faith and not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7, (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**
- l. Along the Christian journey we obey God as we are guided by the Holy Spirit, using the Preserved Word of God. Our constraining factor is always our love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- m. We will also find in **Chapter 11** that the worst sin is the sin of unbelief. The sin of unbelief is the only sin that will provide for the unbeliever, a home in hell for eternity. **John 6:29, Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**
- n. Rejecting God's plan of salvation will result in one committing the unpardonable sin. Please remember this speaks to the sin of unbelief. Rejecting God's plan of salvation is a very serious matter. **Hebrews 10:26, For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,**
- o. **Romans 14:23, And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**

- p. When we do not have faith in God, it will cause us problems along the way.
- q. In **2 Chronicles** we witnessed a king by the name of Asa who started out with God and was in the faith, had a testimony for the Lord, and lived for God. In the battle with the Ethiopians, he depended on God and removed many idols out of the land; however, pride got involved in his heart and there was a lapse of faith. **Proverbs 16:18, Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 29:23, A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.** Interesting to note, this man had a lapse of faith but never lost his salvation.
- r. When there is a lapse of faith we fail to depend on God.
- s. **Many times, we think that because we exercise faith and have been a Christian for a long time, we can take our eyes off the Lord and put His Word on the back burner. Psalm 119:130, The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. Psalm 119:11, Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalm 119:9-10, Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10: With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.**
- t. There is no way we can neglect the will of God and walk by faith. **Romans 10:14, So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
- u. There are several things that will cause Christians problems. We must remember that **revival starts within us** and secondly, we **must stay extremely close to the Preserved Word of God. Ephesians 3:16, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**
- v. God tells believers to not love the world. **1 John 2:15, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**
- w. We must understand what the Preserved Word of God is and embrace it.
- x. **We are to live by faith and depend on God for every aspect of our lives.** When we do it will make a difference. **Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**
- y. God tells us to keep the unity of the Spirit. **Ephesians 4:3, Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**
- z. Let us see what we can glean from God's precious Word today from **Chapter 12 of Hebrews.**

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.
 1. **Hebrews 12:1-2, Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**
 2. God tells us right from the start that there is a danger in drifting, and in staying stationary. There was a quote in the bulletin some time ago, that stated "The danger of missing church is soon you will not miss it." **Hebrews 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
 3. **We also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses** – Many of these are reflected on in **Chapter 11.**
 4. These witnesses want us to be successful in the Christian race, serving God and maintaining a testimony for Jesus Christ as they have already done.
 5. **Romans 3:1-2, What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2: Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.**
 6. We can have a textbook, called the Preserved Word of God and we are challenged to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. **Acts 2:42, And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**
 7. We are told to lay aside every weight, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, we are to run with patience the race set before us.
 8. The Christian life is a race. Those who run know that the lighter things are the faster you can go. Footgear is extremely important if you are going to win. **1 Corinthians 9:26, I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I**

myself should be a castaway.

9. We are to lay aside all things from the world; we are not to live too close to the edge. **Philippians 3:13-14, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**
10. Because we are saved by grace many believers live close to the edge. **Galatians 5:13, For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**
11. We are to renew our minds. **Romans 12:2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**
12. We are to lay aside those things that would be a hindrance to our testimony. It is not about what we can or cannot do but how does it affect a weaker brother. **Romans 14:21, It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.**
13. **The sin which doth so easily beset us** – I believe the sin that is talked about is the sin of unbelief.
14. It is quite easy for us to think we have it made and get away from **“what thus saith the Lord.”**
15. Thinking that we are complete in ourselves can become a stumbling block.
16. The sin of unbelief will take many people straight to hell.
17. The Christian life is a race, and we can all win this race. **Mark 4:20, And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**
18. We win by **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.**
19. When Peter kept his eyes on the Lord Jesus, he was able to walk on the water, when he took his eyes off of Jesus he began to falter and fall. **Matthew 14:29-31, And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30: But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31: And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**
20. It was a joy for the Lord Jesus Christ to endure the cross. **2 Timothy 2:10, Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**
21. Jesus died for the sins of mankind; rose again, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. The purpose for Him being there is to allow us to have the abundant life here on earth. **John 10:10, The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**
22. All these things are necessary for us as we run the Christian race. **1 Corinthians 9:24, Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 1 Corinthians 9:26-27, I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**
23. **Galatians 5:7, Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?** We can be hindered by pride, getting our eyes off Jesus and by not attending church and Bible study.
24. It is all about winning men and women to Christ and strengthening the saints. This is what Chesswood Baptist Church was ordained to do and we must not falter in that mission.

b. Lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

1. **Hebrews 12:3, For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**
2. Endurance, perseverance, and patience are tremendous ingredients. He is giving the Jews who are coming out of Judaism and turning to Christ instructions that are not about rituals and the law any longer; it is about keeping our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. **For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself,** - as our Lord walked the earth, He was tempted in every point as we are tempted yet without sin. **Hebrews 4:15, For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our**

infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

4. He laid the foundation for us and when we keep our eyes on Him, we learn to endure contradiction of sinners.
5. Yes, we will be criticized and talked about. **2 Timothy 3:12, Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**
6. Unless we live close to the Preserved Word of God and are sensitive to the Holy Spirit there will be discouragement.
7. There are many Christians who are discouraged because they live too close to the world and they neglect the Preserved Word of God.
8. Studying the Preserved Word of God and attending church is a habit. **2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**
9. When we get out of the habit, we falter by the wayside.
10. Missing at least three services begins the habit of not coming. That is the reason why many have decided not to attend the Evening service and Wednesday Night Bible Study.
11. To keep our eyes on Jesus we must be in the Preserved Word of God continually.

c. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood.

1. **Hebrews 12:4, Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.**
2. We must realize that the thing that saved us is the blood of Christ.
3. There is no other way to be saved. **1 John 1:7, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. Acts 4:12, Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**
4. Although every person will have difficulties at times, there is a song by Helen H. Lemmel that can be encouraging to us that says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will go strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."
5. When we turn our eyes on Jesus, realize that His blood cleanses us from all sin; we can move out and accomplish great things for God.

d. My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord.

1. **Hebrews 12:5, And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:**
2. If we turn back to **Proverbs 3:11-12**, we will see that the writer of Hebrews is quoting this passage. **My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**
3. Our only resource as we run the Christian race is the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. When we lay aside the rule book that contains rituals, religion, and get our eyes on Jesus we will walk as children of light. **Ephesians 5:8, For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light:**
5. **My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;** - We must not forget that the Lord will chastise those who are His.
6. The word "children" is used five times in **Verses 5-8**. Once we know Jesus as Saviour, we become God's children. **John 1:12, But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**
7. If we can get away without any discipline at all we might want to check up on our salvation.
8. Most believers do not want discipline or accountability. We think we can freelance and do what we want. This is not true my friend. However, it has become the order of the day for many believers.
9. The word "chasten" means something other than what we might think. Most think it means punishment; however, it really means discipline, training if you will.
10. The Lord is always training us to be witnesses and to bring glory to Him. **Hebrews 13:21, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**
11. We are not to despise it nor faint when we are rebuked of Him. **My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:** - If we are His children we will

certainly be chastised.

e. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.

1. **Hebrews 12:6-8, For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7: If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8: But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**
2. Why do the righteous suffer? The Word of God tells us in **Job 14:1, Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.**
3. We also know that there will be some days that are considered valley time where we should be looking for the lesson we need to learn. **Psalms 34:19, Sets the record straight as to why many Christians suffer. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.**
4. God provides a way for us to escape. **Job 5:7, Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.** Jesus tells us in **John 16:33, These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**
5. Paul enlightens us in **2 Timothy 3:12, Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**
6. We understand that there are reasons why Christians suffer.
7. Many times, we suffer because of self-inflicted wounds. We cause problems for ourselves many times and then we blame God. **1 Peter 2:20, For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.**
8. Faults are the sins we commit in making bad choices; as a result, there is suffering.
9. When we have self-inflicted wounds, it causes us to have difficult problems. Let us correct our self-inflicted wounds and not blame God for the process.
10. Many times, we suffer because we stand for the truth in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:12, Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**
11. If you have convictions, you will preach and teach the Preserved Word of God and you will have oppositions. **1 Peter 3:14, But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;**
12. When I am accused of not preaching the Preserved Word of God when I know I am, I am not to be disturbed.
13. We should not be misguided or blow our testimony because of what somebody thinks or says.
14. That is the reason we do not come to church for somebody else- you come to church to glorify God and be a blessing to someone else. **Hebrews 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
15. We suffer because of sin in our lives. Paul says in **1 Corinthians 11:31, For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.**
16. **1 Corinthians 11:28, But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.**
17. God will deal with us because of sin. God does not wink at sin any longer. **Acts 17:30, And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:**
18. When we are out of fellowship with Him, we will be chastised. We do not lose our relationship, but we will lose fellowship.
19. The other reason we suffer is because of past sins and transgressions.
20. **Galatians 6:7, Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**
21. If we have done something before or after we are saved that is detrimental to our health, then God says what you sow you will reap.
22. When He saves us, He does not give us a brand-new body. If we have damaged our body through things that we should not have been doing, we will suffer because of it.
23. The fifth reason why we suffer is there is a purpose of God in our lives. **Romans 8:29, For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he**

- might be the firstborn among many brethren.**
24. Paul was told that because of the thorn in his flesh he sought the Lord three times, but the Lord did not remove it. **2 Corinthians 12:8, For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.**
 25. The Lord had a purpose in that. He might reveal that to us but then again, He might not. He says in **2 Corinthians 12:9, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**
 26. In Job's life God used Satan to show that Job would not curse Him.
 27. There is suffering many times because of what God is doing in our lives.
 28. We must remember that we are a work in progress. This means there are things in our lives that God wants to get rid of. The best way to do that is put us in the valley.
 29. Sometimes we suffer for our faith.
 30. In **Chapter 11** many demonstrated their faith and great victories were won because of it.
 31. They were delivered by the sword many times. Some were even slain because of their faith.
 32. If God be for us who can be against us? **Romans 8:31, What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**
 33. Suffering also comes because God want to discipline us. **If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?**
 34. If we can get away with sin in our life, willfully disobeying God and we get no chastisement, there is something wrong and we need to go back and checkup whether we got a true conversion.
 35. If our earthly father disciplines us, then should not our Heavenly Father do the same? He wants His children to bear a beautiful testimony to His glory.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour my friend?
- b. If you do not know Jesus as personal Saviour today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. It is a simple matter in coming to Christ:
- d. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- e. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- f. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- g. Would you please stand?

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