

Running the Race when Life gets Hard – Trusting the Promises of God

Text: Hebrews 12:1-3

Date: 11-1-20 @ 10:30 am

I. Just like those before us, we ought to trust God _____ - _____. (12:1a).

It is no secret that some of the recipients of acclaim in Hebrews had suffered immense persecution (Heb. 10:32-34).

The writer implores the reader to stay in the race, endure, and don't give up. Why? Because many had endured in the past.

The OT saints lived lives that _____ or bore witness to the truth of God's Word, the promises of God.

II. Just like those before us, we ought to endure _____ – _____ (Heb. 12:1b).

How to prepare to run: laying aside the weight and the sin which so easily besets us.

Why do we run with patience? One of the reasons is that we have a cloud of witnesses who have run before in the same manner. They have set the _____ for us. They have lived in faith before us.

What does it mean to run with *patience*? The word *patience* means *endurance or perseverance*. The word is the _____ of a N.T. believer who sees his trial in light of his future eternal home.

This is _____ endurance amidst trials, persecution, and great trouble.

III. Just like those before us, we must remember that our Hope is always in Christ _____ - _____ (Heb. 12:2-3).

The word *looking* means to "to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something".

When a person looks in this manner, he looks away from the present situation/distractions and instead _____ on how something is going to turn out.

The focus of our lives must remain _____ on the object of our Faith: Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

What is our response?

- Love the Lord our God with all our beings and train our children to do the same (Deut. 6).
- Remind ourselves of our stability because we are grounded on the Rock of our salvation.
- Fear Not! Make God our Refuge, Strength, and Defense.
- Remind ourselves of what Christ has done to forgive us and give us eternal life. Christ is alive and will be the winner.
- Remind ourselves that we are pilgrims in this country.
- Remind ourselves of what is true about God (Heb. 13:8). God is the same both when the ground isn't shaking and when it is.
- Listen less to yourself and the media which is changing; listen more to God and His promises which are not changing.
- Focus on that which never changes – the Rock, Jesus Christ!