



SMALL GROUPS CURRICULUM

LOVING CHRIST ◦ LOVING OTHERS

SERMON

Running the Race of Love for the Glory of God (Hebrews 12:1-2)

DATE

October 24/25 2015

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Before digging into the questions, take at least 5 minutes to read over the passage multiple times. Allow your mind to meditate on the truths of the passage, and pray that God would give you fresh eyes for this passage.

- To further prepare for this study, read through Hebrews 11 and 12. What do the immediately preceding verses in 11:32-40 speak about? Underline the single word in 12:1 that pulls chapters 11 and 12 together. Circle other words in the passage above that you feel are really important.
- Read **Philippians 1:3-6**. In verse 2, the word “perfecter” carries with it the idea of one who brings something to total completion. How does Philippians 1:3-6 and Hebrews 12:1-2 fit together to give us a very assuring truth? How can that one word, “perfecter,” encourage you today?
- We learned that “weights,” although not necessarily wrong in and of themselves, can often pull us away from our pursuit of Jesus. Like the runner who takes pictures of himself while running, these things slow us down in our race and even divide our hearts. What kinds of things (i.e. possessions, activities, people, dreams) are you convicted could be weights in your life today? What does the Bible tell you to do with them?
- Hebrews 11 gives some examples of how can we “run with endurance the race set before us.” Dig through chapter 11 to find three examples that mean a lot to you and record them below in the chart.

I can run with endurance like...	by...	Reference

Make note of the two words that surface again and again in chapter 11: _____

Now in chapter 12, the writer completes the picture and gives us only one example that we are to look at. Who is it? What is the difference between the examples of chapter 11 and the example of chapter 12:1-2?

- All too often “disordered loves” can supplant our love for the Lord and so take away our greatest possible joy. Ask the Lord to show you where in your life right now, there is something that you have or are currently pursuing that, if it were stripped from you, you would lose your identity, meaning or purpose.
- Where are we to find our identity, meaning and purpose?