



TITLE:

Let Us Run, Let Us Consider, Let Us Not Despise Nor Faint

TEXT:

Hebrews 12:1-6

INTRODUCTION

- Hebrews 12 and 13 contain the concluding exhortation.
- Hebrews 10:32-36 shows the condition of the recipients of the Epistle.
- Hebrews 11 is a parenthesis to illustrate what faith is because the just is justified by faith and should continually live by faith.
- Paul exhorts the recipients with an emphasis on the importance of patience or endurance amid their suffering.

LET US RUN (v.1 - 2)

- The race is set before us.
 - Let us run the race. "Run" means to exert oneself, strive hard; to spend one's strength in performing or attaining something.
- The race has witnesses.
 - We are surrounded by so great number of believers who obtained a good report.
- The race requires laying aside (putting off, putting away) every weight (or burden) and every sin.
 - The weight and sin that so easily beset us.
- The race requires patience.
 - Patience or endurance is strongly emphasized in the Epistle.
- The race requires looking unto Jesus.
 - Looking (ἀφορῶντες - apherōntes) means to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something.
 - Amid trials and persecution, Paul exhorts the recipient to look unto Jesus and how He endured the sufferings of His life.
 - The believers who exhibited their faith in Hebrews 11 are our example but we have a far more better example of faith - the author and the finisher of faith - the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - He is the author (or captain) of our faith. Compare Heb 2:10.
 - He is the finisher (or perfecter) of our faith.
 - He is the one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith.
 - The joy was set before him.
 - The joy refers to the honor which He would have at the right hand of the throne of God. Compare Phi. 2:5-11.
 - Jesus Christ endured the cross.
 - He endured patiently the public shame, and disgrace and pain connected with the suffering of death on the cross.
 - The cross during the time of Christ is not a symbol of honor and grace (that is how we perceive the cross today) but it is a well known instrument of most cruel and ignominious punishment for the guiltiest criminals. It is a public shame and disgrace to die on the cross.
 - Jesus Christ despised the shame.
 - Despised (καταφρονήσας - kataphronēsas) means to think little or nothing of.
 - Knowing the joy and honor which He would have, He was able to despise the shame of the cross.
 - Jesus Christ is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - Compare Eph. 1:20-22.
 - While the suffering the believers are experiencing, Paul exhorts them to patiently endure these times because God has provided some better thing for us - for the glorious rewards, the happiness and the triumph of heaven, are before you.

LET US CONSIDER JESUS CHRIST (v.3 - 4)

- The word “consider” (ἀναλογίσασθε - analogisasthe) is an imperative that means to think over, consider, and ponder.
 - We are commanded to attentively reflect on His example so that you may be able to bear your trials in a proper manner.
- Jesus endured such contradiction (ἀντιλογίαν - antilogian means gainsaying, strife or opposition) of sinners against himself.
 - The Jews perverted his saying. They ridiculed his claims. They didn’t accept him as their Messiah.
 - Regardless of their opposition, he patiently endured and went forward.
- Opposition makes you wearied and faint in your mind.
 - It can be overcome by keeping our eyes steadily fixed on our Saviour.
- Jesus Christ went beyond us in His trials and temptations - beyond anything which we could have reason to apprehend - for He had “resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”
- Consider Jesus Christ and His sufferings.

LET US NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD NOR FAINT (v. 5 – 6)

- Considering the trials and persecution that the recipients are experiencing, Paul quoted Prov. 3:11-12 and described it as the “exhortation of a father unto a child”. Notice the words “My Son” in verse 5.
 - He does not mean that when Solomon used the words, he had reference to them particularly, but that he used them regarding the children of God; that they have a Heavenly Father that corrects us.
- This is to illustrate that afflictions were designed by God to produce peaceable fruit of righteousness unto us (v.11).
 - Whether the child of God suffers afflictions because of his faithfulness or because of his sin, God sends trials to produce the fruit of righteousness.
- They have forgotten this exhortation.
 - Be reminded on how God operates through sufferings in our lives.
- Let us not despise the chastening of the Lord.
 - The word despise (ὀλιγόρει - oligōrei) means to have little regard for, to care little for, regard lightly, make small account.
 - The word chastening (παιδείας - paideias) means tutorage, training, education, instruction, nurture - the school of trials that produces faith.
 - This is the whole idea of Eph 6:4. To bring up or to train our children on how God chastens, corrects and instructs His children.
 - Don’t have a little regard on the chastening of the Lord.
- Let us not faint when thou are rebuked of Him.
 - The exhortation not to faint is repeated. See verse 3.
 - God rebukes His children. He will not suffer His children to wander away unrebuked and unchecked, but will mercifully reclaim them through suffering.
 - This is the importance of biblical preaching. See 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - Don’t faint when God rebukes you.
- Chastening shows the paternal love and care of God.
 - A parent who doesn’t correct his children doesn’t love them. See verse 7. This is against the modern psychology of our day.
- Every child of God is treated by Him with watchful care and paternal love.