

## THE RACE OF YOUR LIFE

### Hebrews 12:1-3

- I. **THE WITNESSES THAT SURROUND US**—the communion of saints
  - A. **Their Witness to Us**—the saints who have run the race before us
    1. **Jesus is worth everything.**
    2. **This is how it's done.**
  - B. **Their Witness of Us**—are they watching us, rooting for us?
    1. **We are part of a team.**
      - a. **We are not alone.**—we are chosen; we belong!
      - b. **We share a goal.**—purpose
    2. **It matters how we run.**
      - a. **Others are watching.** (Job 1:8)
      - b. **Our victory is shared.** (Heb 11:39, 40)
- II. **THE RACE SET BEFORE US**
  - A. **Has a Goal**—a direction, a destination, a purpose
  - B. **Requires Submission** (Ps 119:32)—God marked it out for us.
    1. **The Path is chosen for us**—We don't choose **course** or **terrain**
    2. **The Rules are established**—we don't get to make them
  - C. **Requires Effort**—Faith demands action, motion
    1. **Preparation**— training, conditioning, intentional choices...
      - a. **Limit Ourselves**
      - b. **Push ourselves**
    2. **Endurance**—It will be long and hard; you will be tempted to quit.

- III. **THE THINGS THAT HINDER US** (1b)—get rid of them
- A. **Weight that Encumbers** ()—not *bad* things but *extra* things
1. **The Past** (Phil 3:13-14)—**pride, regret, unhealed wounds**
  2. **Things of This World** (Mk 4:18-19)—**cares, distractions**
  3. **Bad Habits** (Tit 2:12; 1 Tim 2:12)—self-indulgence; lack of discipline
- B. **Sin that Entangles**—clings to, limits, hampers, trips us up
- IV. **THE CHAMPION WHO INSPIRES US** (2a)—JESUS the Author and Perfector of our faith
- A. **The Source** ()—the author, founder, leader
- B. **The Pattern** (Mat 3:15)—the ultimate perfect example and guide
1. **Focused on the Joy Before Him** (Ps 119:49-50)
  2. **Endured the Suffering of the Cross** (Mat 16:24)
  3. **Despised the Shame of the Cross** (Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 1:8)
  4. **Won the Reward** (Rev 3:21)—has prepared a place for us there
- V. **The Focus of Our Faith** (Mat 14:30; Jn 5:39-40)—the Person of Jesus

WATCH VIDEO CLIPS OF **CHARIOTS OF FIRE**:

1. <https://youtu.be/bwUVbsDSTF4> — Eric's sermon, the metaphor of running the race of life by faith
2. <https://youtu.be/MXA1jsHYLNs> — "Get up, Lad!"
3. <https://youtu.be/CSav51fVIKU> — running on the beach