

Sovereign Grace Church
“Looking Unto Jesus” outline
September 10, 2017

Hebrews 12: 1-2

The author of the letter to the Hebrews is attempting to encourage his wavering people to persevere in their commitments to Jesus as Lord and Savior. He has reminded them of the greatness of Christ in contrast to the “shadows” of the Old Covenant dispensation, as well as the severe risks of abandoning Christ in order to return to the perceived safety of those same “shadows.” In chapter eleven the writer listed representative examples of how our old covenant brethren lived by faith and consequently overcame severe limitations and hindrances in their pursuit of the reality toward which those “shadows” pointed.

The writer has conveyed the truth and now it is a matter of what we will do with it! Some will lock it away in an academic vault in their minds and continue on their fleshly way. However, this is far from Christ's intent for us. He expects us to take this knowledge and be changed by it and then act upon it....not in our own strength, but in a supernatural strength that He will provide through our efforts. Do we really believe that He will provide it? Such is the difference between profession and possession. We are called to possess Christ....and, in His name, re-claim His world!

1. Our Call: to Run the Race v. 1c

- the Uniqueness and Goal of our Race

- Scriptures: II Cor. 3: 17-18; Phil. 3: 13-14; Eph. 4: 22-24; I Cor. 11: 1

2. Our Confidence v. 1a

“cloud of witnesses” Jms 5: 17; Jn. 14: 12

3. How do we do it? vv., 1b,2

- Laying aside
 - weights

- sin
- Looking unto Jesus....author & finisher
Col. 3: 1-2

Q. Did Jesus have faith?
Lk 22: 42; Jn 6: 38; Lk 23: 34

Do we?

Questions for Conversation and Personal Growth

- 1. How do you view your Christian life? Is it important how you live? Having professed to believe in Jesus as Savior are we then free to continue on in our old sinful habits? Why or why not? If we are saved by grace alone through faith alone, what difference does it make how we live?!**
- 2. Do you view your life in Christ as a race? How is it like a race? What is the goal of this race? Is it to get into Heaven? Or is it to live a different kind of life? What sort of obstacles are you finding in your particular race? How can the examples of faithful lives in Hebrews 11 help you? What “weights” do you need to put off so that you might finish your race?**
- 3. Do you find sin to be a troublesome factor in your life? Is it easily overcome or more like trying to clean oat meal off of your fingers? How do we deal with this stubborn disposition to sin in our lives? What did God mean when he confronted Cain in Genesis 4: 6-7? How can we “rule over it?”**
- 4. How do we “look unto Jesus” as a continued characteristic of our character and still get anything else done? Did Jesus have faith? What were some characteristics of His faith? How was His faith tested? What can we learn from this? What did Paul mean in Phil. 3: 11? To what was he referring by “resurrection from the dead”? Are we to be living the “resurrected life” now? What would this look like for you?**