



Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
September 13, 2020 - 40 Days of Prayer, our FINAL SUNDAY!

HEBREWS 12:1-15 (TNIV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² **FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ **CONSIDER HIM** who endured such opposition from sinners, *so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of **SHEDDING YOUR BLOOD**.

⁵ **And have you completely forgotten THIS WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT** that addresses you as *children*? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his child.”

[PROVERBS 3:11-12 (see Septuagint)]

⁷ **Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?** ⁸ **If you are not disciplined — and everyone undergoes discipline — then you are not legitimate children at all.**

⁹ Moreover, we have all had parents who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to **THE FATHER OF SPIRITS and LIVE!** ¹⁰ **Our parents** disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but **God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his HOLINESS.** ¹¹ **No discipline seems pleasant at**

the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of **RIGHTEOUSNESS & PEACE** for those who have been trained by it.

¹² **Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.** ¹³ **“Make level paths for your feet,”** so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

¹⁴ **Make every effort [lit., “pursue”; “chase down”] to live in PEACE** with everyone and **TO BE HOLY**; without **HOLINESS** no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ **See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God** and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Q1 Who is in this race?

You and I are running this race _____! (vv. 12-13, 15a)

- a. So we need to _____ and _____ our running partners.
- b. We must keep in mind — my race affects _____; and your’s affects _____. (vv. 12-13)
- c. We will “see to it that _____ falls short of the grace of God!” (v. 15a)
- d. Ask yourself, Which other runner will you strengthen or encourage _____?
- e. How will you make sure _____ that other runners get fully drenched in the grace of God?

Q2 What are we chasing?

This race is all about our _____! (vv. 10-11, 14-15)

- a. Our Father’s training is “for our good” — meaning, it will help us “share in His _____”!
And so, we are called to “_____ **HOLINESS!**” (v. 14)

J. RAMSEY MICHAELS: *“‘Holiness’ characterizes a person’s relationship to God — a ‘vertical’ relationship if you will, to the one above, whom we worship.”*

- b. Our Father’s training will produce a harvest of “_____”.
J. RAMSEY MICHAELS: *“‘Peace’ & ‘right living’ (or ‘justice’) have to do with a person’s relationships & responsibilities to other human beings — the ‘horizontal’ dimension of our lives.”*

- c. Our Father’s training will produce a harvest of “_____”.
And so, we are called to “_____ **PEACE!**” (v. 14)

Q3 What will it take to win this race? We must rapidly and _____ out any bitter roots that “crop up!” (v. 15b)

- a. Let’s _____: the author already instructed us about things that “hinder & entangle” (v. 1b).
- b. Let’s _____: We aren’t actually competitors, where we’d be trying to _____ the race. We’re all just trying to _____ the race!
- c. Let’s _____ where “roots of bitterness” come from. They come from “_____ of bitterness”!
- d. What’s the difference between a seed of bitterness & a root of bitterness? _____. And _____.
- e. We’ll want to _____ to our “inner vineyard”. What’s lurking there?
- f. We’ll become keenly _____ of any bitterness in our spirit — & _____ when it appeared!
- g. Let’s get to _____! If we don’t, our bitter root will (1) “_____” us in our race; (2) “easily _____ us”; (3) “cause _____ (4) and _____ many.”