

#4 It's How You Finish!

Hebrews 12:1-4

Hebrews 12:1 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 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him 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 sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ⁴In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Philippians 3:13 ... one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 2:5 ...anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

- **1. YOU HAVE YOUR OWN UNIQUE RACE TO RUN** "Run with perseverance the race marked out for YOU!"
- **2. RUN YOUR RACE WELL** "Run in such a way as to get the prize."
- 3. HOW YOU STARTED THE RACE WAS IMPORTANT, BUT NOT ALL-IMPORTANT.

- **4. EVERYONE STUMBLES AT SOME POINT** "We all stumble in many ways" (James 3:2)
- **5.** THERE ARE SOME WHO WON'T FINISH WELL "So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord..."
- 6. JESUS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS RACE, SO LOOK TO HIM AS YOUR INSPIRATION, HOPE, AND STRENGTH FOR DOING THE SAME —"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."

7. IT'S HOW YOU FINISH

THAT MATTERS MOST! — "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7)

Will you commit today to Finishing Your Race Well?