

Bible e-Study on the book of Hebrews 12(a)

Victory

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12: 1b-2a

NUGGET – "...*the race marked out for us,*" tells us a couple things about our life of faith here on earth. First, it's a race! It's something that we pursue and charge after. It's not a 'walk in the park' or 'stroll down the lane' no it's a "race".

And secondly it has a marked course for us. We don't have to guess or wonder where the race leads. The route is laid out we are to follow that. And that path is where we fix our eyes. That race we run is to follow after "*the pioneer and perfecter of faith*" – Jesus Christ.

It's important to remember that the race has not only been charted, but it has been won, by Jesus! We are to follow with perseverance where He has *already* led the way. He is the pioneer, which is the first One to travel the course.

When we think of pioneers we think of those who discovered new places like Lewis and Clark. They are first to 'have been there – done that'. We think of people who went where no one else had gone and then returned from 'there' to tell about it. Death is 'where' Jesus went in dying on the cross and then rising to new life.

Jesus Christ had a human nature as we do. He is the one who has gone before us, leading a life of perfection and then willingly giving that life up to death on the cross to pay for the sins of everyone who would follow Him, even though they lacked that same perfection. Indeed His human nature, unlike ours, was *not* corrupted by sin. Therefore His life and death, as both perfect God and perfect man, possessed the power to atone for the sins of the whole world.

In His death and His resurrection, He finished the race that no one else could. In doing that He has become the "perfecter" of our faith. Faith must always have an object, just as a race must have an end point, and after that a victor's crown. So also our faith, given to us by God's grace, has its 'end point', its object. And that is the name and person of Jesus Christ. He ALONE is the One who has finished the course perfectly so we may follow in that path and, with Him, attain the final crown of victory. The defeat of death and life everlasting!

APPLICATION -

1. It's been a long, a very long time, since I ran a race. How about you? But I still remember that feeling of trying so hard, looking only forward and leaning into the race with everything I had. I never won many races, but enough to remember what that was like – to fix my eyes on that finish line and 'go for it!' That is what the author of Hebrews is drawing us to when he says to "*run with perseverance the race marked out for us*". We hold nothing back. Next time you hear the sports news and hear about someone winning a race – be reminded of this passage and that we hold nothing back in the race we are called to, in following after Jesus Christ.

PRAY – Jesus Christ, Lord over all, grant to us the strength and endurance in the race You've called us to in this life. May we be always reminded to keep our eyes fixed on You, for in You and from You we find our course and our confidence, that in faith we will, with You win the prize of eternal life. In Your name we pray, amen.