

FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016
THEME: GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY SEEN PROPHETICALLY
UNIT TWO –THE SOVEREIGNTY OF JESUS CHRIST...
“JESUS CHRIST, OUR ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF SERVICE
AND LEADERSHIP”



Sunday School Lesson No. IX - October 30, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Hebrews 12:1-13

Motto Text: Hebrews 12:1-2, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Libronix Electronic Library; Thomas Nelson Bible Notes; Life Application Bible Commentary on Hebrews (Tyndale); The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington), Precepts for Living (UMI), Word Search 9 and 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Hebrews-26 Simple Studies in God’s Pattern For Virtuous Living (M. R. DeHaan); Epistle of Hebrews by John Owen; The Touch Bible; Commentary on Hebrews by John Phillips; Logos Bible Software

INTRODUCTION:

In chapter 11, the Hebrews writer gave a great list of those who are numbered as the “Heroes of Faith.” Their standing up for the Lord in spite of their challenging consequences raises the hope level for the saints of his day and today! But even with examples like Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Esther, Deborah and Samson, they are of no comparison to Jesus Christ, God’s Ultimate Example of Service and Leadership!

The writer, like a personal trainer, gives us reasons to continue with all diligence to press forward with all fortitude, keeping our eyes on and faith in the unchanging God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. Warren Wiersbe reminds us “The Jewish believers who received this letter were getting weary and wanted to give up; but the writer encouraged them to keep moving forward in their Christian lives, like runners on a track.”

So let us not look to the left or to the right, but let us *“look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”* as God’s Ultimate Example of Leadership!

Anticipated Power Points: Jesus Christ’s Example Teaches Us To...

- **Faithfully Run.** Hebrews 12:1
- **Fully Follow His Leadership.** Hebrews 12:2-4
- **Face the Real Facts.** Hebrews 12:5-11
- **Finish the Race Strong.** Hebrews 12:12-13

LESSON OUTLINE

Jesus Christ’s example teaches us to:

I. Faithfully Run. Hebrews 12:1

Why? Because there are those who have marked out the path before us and they ran, chartering the way for us! Faithfully, the believer should run with as less baggage as possible, laying aside temptations and snares, things that would weigh us down and hinder us from running at top speed. Finally, faithfully run with endurance and a steady pace, because we are in it for “the long haul,” and “we are in it to win it!”

II. Fully Follow His Leadership. Hebrews 12:2-4

The believers must keep their eyes on the Coach, and not find themselves looking in other directions. *“Looking unto Jesus...”* He is our Role Model, Captain, Mentor and Pathfinder! He is the only way to God! Quoting John 14:16, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* He is God’s one and

only Sacrifice and Saviour! The Author, "Pioneer", and Finisher. "One who perfects or completes." Hebrews 9:28, "***So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.***" In verses 3-4, Christ is the over comer of all the temptations of sinners, thus giving an example that we can follow in His steps. (Read I Corinthians 10:13.)

III. Face the Real Facts. Hebrews 12:5-11

The cost of following Jesus Christ as our ultimate example of service and leadership is very high and totally involved!

A. Fact One...Remember the Rules. vs. 5-7a

From the days of Solomon's proverbial writings in Proverbs 3:11-12, God has always put His children to the test to prove their faith and encourage their growth: "***My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.***"

Discipline is training to the soul and body that will yield results! God's rules are a demonstration of His great love.

B. Fact Two...Remember the Relationship. vs 7b-10

God is our Father and the believer, no matter what the test, can know assuredly that his testing or discipline is totally lined with His compassion and protection. If we respect our earthly parents who disciplined us that we would not be frail, spoiled brats who could not fend for ourselves, how much more should we reverence and honor those whose training will take us from earth to Glory?"

C. Fact Three...Remember the Rewards. vs. 11

The strain and pain of God's disciplinary training will pay off in the "fourth quarter" of the game of life!

IV. Finish the Race Strong. Hebrews 12:12-13

Jesus' example teaches us that the race is not given to the fastest, but to the faithful!

When we follow in His footsteps, we are able to become more than conquerors. (Read Romans 8:37-39.) Christ's leadership teaches me to:

A. Reinforce my Resolve. vs. 12

"Take a new grip with your tired hands and stand firm on your shaky legs." "So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet!" If Christ could endure the cross, then we should be resolved to keep on striving. Why? Because we are not alone. Read Matthew 28:20, "***...and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***"

B. Remain in the Race. vs. 13

The New Century Version says it very clearly and encouragingly why we must remain in the race: "***Keep on the right path, so the weak will not stumble, but rather be strengthened.***"

Closing:

Christ is our ultimate example of service and leadership, so let us follow Him exclusively. Time is running short, and many are running ignorantly blind. The poet wrote:

"I have only just a minute, Only sixty seconds in it, Forced upon me, didn't refuse it. Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
But it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it. Give account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it." Anonymous.

Above all, stay in the race and don't quit! Looking back, there is another poem that will encourage your faith's fortitude:

Don't Quit (Anonymous)

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high, And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and its turns, As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about When they might have won, had they stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow, You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than, It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down, How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell how close you are, It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit, It's when things seem worst that you must not quit!

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Looking Ahead: November 6, 2016 Revelation 21:1-8

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

