

Run the Race: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 9, 2012

Heb 12:1-2

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.

1. GOD IS CALLING US TO BE A HOLY CHURCH

v. 1 Let us... throw off everything that hinders us.

v. 1 Let us... throw off the sin that entangles us.

- Which means being a people of REPENTANCE

2. GOD IS CALLING US TO BE A FAITHFUL AND OBEDIENT CHURCH

v. 2 Let us... fix our eyes on Jesus.

- Which means being a people of OBEDIENCE

3. GOD IS CALLING US TO BE DISCIPLE MAKERS

v. 1 Let us... run the race marked out for us.

- Which means being a people of PASSION & PERSEVERANCE

What Hinders Us?

- BUSYNESS
- NOISE (TV, Cell Phone, Internet, Facebook, Texting)
- LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH
- FEAR

- SIN
 - Pride
 - Laziness
 - Pornography
 - Addictions
 - Gossip
 - Lust
 - Covetness
 - Unforgiveness

Phil 3:7-14

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But 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.

- Let us... throw off everything that hinders us.
- Let us... throw off the sin that entangles us.
- Let us... fix our eyes on Jesus.
- Let us... run the race marked out for us.