

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus!

Hebrews 12:1-3 September 8, 2019 Pastor Robert Hein

Introduction: Life is a journey. Which picture best describes our earthly life?

Stroll through the park or long difficult marathon?

- Life can be tough- physical challenges, emotional challenges, spiritual challenges

The writer to Hebrews compares our life to a marathon

- Marathon is not about speed, it's about endurance, perseverance, focus, crossing the finish line

Theme: Fix your eyes on Jesus!

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

In a race -

In our Christian race -

2 Peter 2:19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

Sin become progressive, more and more takes control, takes over,

Throw off sinful habits – addictions; pornography, gambling, misuse of drugs and alcohol

Recognize it, Repent, Trust in Jesus for forgiveness and strength

Don't let other priorities distract you

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. **Matthew 13:22**

We are surrounded by such a great crowd of witnesses

In a race –

In our Christian race -

Heroes of faith from the Bible

Our present Christian family

Let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

- Which crowd are you spending the most time with?

Fix your eyes on Jesus!

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. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- Jesus already completed his race
- Ruling at the right hand of God, Jesus empowers us to complete our race

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. **2 Peter 1:3-5**

Where is Jesus?

He runs with us, sustains us

He is at the finish line, awarding a crown of righteousness

Conclusion: Keep your eye on the prize: life with Jesus!