Lorenzo
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11-27-05
8-17-08
8-19-12

# Running For Jesus

Heb 12:1-2 pg 1281

INTRO: While we feel sorrow over the loss of some of our young members to the world, we should rejoice that there are some who stay and serve Jesus.

We victimize our youth with our lack of perception or indifference.

We have been content to enter our youth into this Christian race without the training that they need to endure.

We constantly seek stray sheep because we have neglected to mend our fences to keep them in the Church.

I.) THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A RACE TO RUN

A.) God pictures what we ought to be.

1.) We are to be lights in a world of darkness.

Pg 1017 a.) MATT 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1.) Our light should not be hid nor should it be held so close that it blinds.

UNDER BUSHEL- USES OXYGEN LIGHT GOES OUT

a.) MATT 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

MARATHON BIKER DRAFTING 2) We need to be united in Jesus as branches on a vine.

pg 1141 a.) Jn 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

BIKER FALLS BACK OUT OF DRAFT

b.) If we are separated from the Church and its influence then we will die as a branch does that is cut off from the vine.

RUNNING FOR JESUS

GOD PICTURES WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE

KEEP THE INTREST THERE SO THE YOUNG WILL NOT LEAVE

We can see this in you. a.) Jn 15:4 abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of ~~itself~~ itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me,

3.) We need to travel as strangers.

pg 1289 a.) I Pet 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

NEVER RUN A RACE BEFORE - NOT SURE WHAT TO DO, ALL OUT AND HAVE NOTHING FOR THE END.

1.) We are strangers here, and we must be careful of the temptations that come upon us.

4.) We need to be fighting as soldiers.

pg 1263 a.) I Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

THE PROPER TRAINING YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RUN WITH THE LEADERS AND BE ABLE TO SPRINT AT THE END.

1.) To fight this fight we must be prepared.

pg 1244 a.) Eph 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

after putting the armor on we read in 1) Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

PEP TALK FROM THE COACH

a.) Getting their blessing from God before going into battle.

B.) We don't run races -

1.) By talking about the entrance requirements.

pg 1275 a.) Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

1.) If we keep going over the same

RUNNING FOR JESUS

WE DON'T RUN RACES

thing - (same lesson) every week then we are not going to futher our knowledge of the scriptures.

2.) By criticizing the strides of others.

a.) Grandstand quarterbacks do not win ball games. 1.)

~~b.)~~ At least the players are trying - making the wrong moves sometimes, but at least trying.

b.) Good advice is wasted if a man cannot apply it.

PUTTING YOUR CHRISTIANS IN A SITUATION THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE. →

1.) Wrong players for the play called.

c.) But rather look with esteem at the brethren

pg 1247 1.) Phil 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

a.) Don't do something to be seen of men, but you are to be humble, putting yourself lower than everyone else.

d.) ~~And~~ cease your criticisms of others.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO HELP, THEN DON'T CRITICIZE THOSE THAT ARE.

pg 1247 1.) Phil 2:14-15 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the ~~sons~~ sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as ~~lights~~ lights in the world.

a.) Don't complain and argue all the time but be as children of God. Be seen by your actions as a ~~shining~~ light drawing people to the church.

3.) By Watching champions on TV.

WE BE A PECULIAR PEOPLE IF WE ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING

pg 1220 a.) Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1.) The champions we need to watch ~~are~~ are the ones doing the Lord's work without thought of pay or glory.

Running for Jesus

RUNNERS GO ALL OUT OR HOLD BACK

RUNNERS GO ALL OUT AND HAVE NOTHING FOR THE END OF THE RACE.

II.) THE DEMANDS OF THE RACE ARE CHALLENGING.

A.) Adequate preparation is required

pg 972 1.) AMOS 6:1 Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

a.) We cannot sit back and rest - we might not have enough ENERGY to finish.

pg 1033 2.) Matt 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

a.) Do not worry what others will think about you; just do what you can to help Christ.

b.) When preparing for a race, people will not all do it the same way. Prepare for the race that is the best for you. you are the one that will win or loose.

B.) Perseverance is essential

WORKERS WORKED ALL DAY. SOME ONLY AN HOUR. THEY WERE ALL PAID THE SAME.

1.) The endurance race will end in Heaven.

pg 1275 a.) Heb 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

1.) The dedicated runners train all the time, not a week or two before the big race; but all the time.

2.) We don't know how long we have here, so we have to keep training for that big finish in Heaven.

2.) A man asked this kid, "Sonny, have you been in that wheel chair all of your life?" He replied, "Not yet, mister."

a.) His life was not over yet, and neither is ours. So we need to keep working.

3.) There is more to be done

pg 1248 a.) Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself

Running for Jesus

to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1.) Forget about the hurdle that you just went over, don't look back, another one is just ahead of you.

III.) SINS MUST BE ABANDONED

A.) Unnecessary burdens make winning impossible

pg 1264 1.) I Tim 6:17-19 TURN TO

a.) Don't put your trust in worldly possions because you can't take it with you.

DON'T PUT TO MUCH FAITH IN WORLDLY GOODS - THEY MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK

pg 1281 REPEAT 2.) Heb 12:1 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.

a.) When running a race you get rid of all the extra weight that you can.

b.) As a Christian preparing for the race, sometimes that extra weight is family or a friend.

B.) Every temptation is deadly

pg 1243 1.) Eph 4:22-24 TURN TO

THE WAY YOU TALK & ACT AROUND OTHER PEOPLE IS THE WAY YOU ACT AT CHURCH?

a.) In becoming a Christian you leave behind the things that belong to the world. You have a different appearance that the people who see you can tell the difference.

2.) In running a race, if you don't stay in your lane, or if you take a short cut, you will be disqualified.

a.) There are no shortcuts to being a Christian.

RUNNING FOR JESUS

III.) WITNESSESS INSPIRE US

A.) There are sports figures that we admire for their playing ability.

B.) We have several examples of faithful people, IN THE BIBLE one of whom is Moses

pg 1281 1.) Heb 11:24-27 TURN TO.

a.) He wanted to be traded to a better team; one that had a better retirement system.

C.) Todays inspiration

1.) When we have a meeting or go to one, we get a lot of inspiration from it.

a.) We should be getting this every week when we come together.

D.) The best witness of all is Jesus.

pg 1305 1.) REV 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

a.) Would any of these sports leaders lay down their life for us. Jesus did, and one day he will be coming back to claim his own.

CONCLUSION

A.) I started this lesson talking about the young members leaving the church; and ABOUT seeking the stray sheep.

1.) If we want our youth to stay with us, or if we want new converts to come into the Church; then we the older ones must set the examples. ~~and live by faith~~.