

STAYING THE COURSE

JANUARY 12, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

One's life is not measured by the duration of his life, but by the donation of his life; in the investments he makes:

- Faithful service in the Kingdom of God. Advancing the Kingdom.
- Devotion in marriage. Helping each other serve God.
- Care for children. Spiritual training by precept and example.
- Other relationships. Influencing others to come to Christ.

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8 – What the Christian life involves.

- Fighting. The garden: God said vs Satan said. Cain vs Abel. Give no entry points to the devil.
- Finishing. Our course, not someone else's.
- Faithfulness. Stewards must be found faithful.

MATTHEW 16:24

- We deny ourselves the right to live independent of God. We give up our plans to follow God's. Paul did.
- Take up our cross. Submit to the will of God.
- Follow the example of Jesus. **MATTHEW 4:19** If we follow Him, He will make us what He wants us to be. **ACTS 1:8**

ABOUT THE COURSE

HEBREWS 12:1-3

1. Cloud of witnesses: We're not alone. Others gave up their pursuits to get on course with God. They finished their course and now fill heaven's grandstands: Noah; Abraham; Moses, who gave up royalty, fame, prestige, power and position to follow God's purpose **HEBREWS 11:24-26**; Paul, gave up all he worked for to follow Jesus. His decision made him the most persecuted man, second only to Christ.
2. Lay aside: Whatever impedes us or slows us down; prevents us from finishing our course: Pride, unbelief, unforgiveness, complaining, selfishness, fleshly lusts, etc. We must love the things of God more than the things of this world if we want power with God.
3. Patience: Perseverance – to persist in a state, enterprise or under-taking in spite of counter influences, opposition or discouragement. Paul was beaten, stoned, mistreated and threatened.
4. Race: We are the only contestant. It's our race to finish or not. There's a highly organized army trained to get us off our course. **JOHN 14:30, 1 JOHN 3:5** Satan had nothing to work with because he had nothing on or in Jesus. **EPHESIANS 4:27** We too, are to give the enemy no place of operation: Lying, uncontrolled anger and rage, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, malice and unforgiveness, all give the devil a place to operate.
5. Looking: Fix the eye on Jesus, focus our attention on Jesus, follow His example. Let Him set the pace for the course or our lives. A person on course:
 - Hungry to do God's will.
 - Governed by "it is written."
 - Led by the Spirit.
 - Regulated by agape love.
 - Concerned about others welfare.
 - Quick to repent and forgive.
 - Abhors evil, cleaves to what is good.
 - Given to prayer and study of the Word.
 - Obedient in stewardship and all areas of spiritual discipline.
 - Overcomes temptation.
 - Looks for the return of Jesus.