

STAYING THE COURSE – 2
JANUARY 19, 2020

REVIEW:

- One's life is measured by the donation, not duration of it.
- Investments made in the Kingdom, marriage, children, others.
- The Christian life involves fighting, finishing and faithfulness.
- We deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus.

CONTINUE: 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.
6. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Our faith begins and ends with Him.
 - **GALATIANS 4:22-23** Faith vs flesh – the flesh can get us off our course. Ishmael was a work of the flesh. Isaac was a work of the Spirit. God didn't authorize what Abraham did with Hagar. What He doesn't authorize, He's under no obligation to finish.
7. Joy: A powerful force. It enabled Jesus to endure the cross, and empowers us to overcome temptation. **JAMES 1:2** Command joy, when facing challenging circumstances.
8. Consider Him: So we don't weary and faint in our minds.
 - **GALATIANS 6:9** Discouragement can get us off course.
 - **ISAIAH 40:28-31** There's no substitute for waiting on God.
 - Consider these things about Jesus:
 1. Wasn't deterred by adversity. Lucille Ball was told she couldn't act.
 2. Didn't allow impatience to get Him off course. **LUKE 2:52**
 3. Didn't allow confusion to interfere. **JOHN 4:34**
 4. Didn't coast on the momentum of past success.
 5. Wasn't impeded by suffering. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18**