

STAYING THE COURSE – 4
FEBRUARY 2, 2020

REVIEW:

- **HEBREWS 12:1-3**
 1. Cloud of witnesses; 2. Lay aside; 3. Patience; 4. Race;
 5. Looking;

CONTINUE:

6. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Our faith begins and ends with Him. We're told to consider Him. To consider means think carefully about something before making a decision.

A. These Hebrew Christians were considering going back into Judaism and renouncing Christ. The reason being the persecution they were experiencing from the Jews. Paul instructs them to think carefully about that decision before doing so.

HEBREWS 10:35-39 Believers are to live by faith, not feelings or emotions. Jesus will come again and we're not to focus on when, just live by faith.

B. Consider Abraham – **GALATIANS 4:22-23** The promise was made. The fulfillment took 25 years. At age 86, Ishmael was born. Ishmael was a work of the flesh. At age 100, Isaac was born. Isaac was a work of the Spirit. The flesh can get us off course. This is why patience is Necessary. Ishmael is the ancestor of many Arab tribes and considered by Muslims as the forefather of Muhammad.

C. Consider Jesus:

- Joy: A powerful spiritual force that enabled Jesus to endure the cross. He disregarded the shame associated with crucifixion and focused on the joy of bringing many sons and daughters into the Kingdom. It's joy that enables us to take up our cross. **1 PETER 1:4-9 (NLT), MATTHEW 25:21** Even James understood the power and importance of joy when facing challenging circumstances.

JAMES 1:2-4, HEBREWS 12:3-4 Fainting deals with the mind. It's caused by low blood flow to the brain.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS ABOUT JESUS

1. He wasn't deterred by adversity. **JOHN 16:33 (AMPC)** Lucille Ball was told she couldn't act, she was too shy.
2. Didn't permit confusion to get Him off course. **Romans 12:2**
3. Wasn't impeded by suffering. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-18**
4. Stayed focused. **LUKE 9:51, PHILIPPIANS 3:13-15**
5. Knew how to prevent fainting. **ISAIAH 40:28-31, GALATIANS 6:9**

CONCLUSION:

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8 We all have a race to run and course to finish. We all face the challenges of the devil, world and flesh. How we finish is up to us.