

CONSIDER JESUS ~ Hebrews 12:3-4

→ Scripture Reading Hebrews 10:32-36

INTRODUCTION

MESSAGE OF HEBREWS...

- Jesus is SUPERIOR
- do not GO BACK
- you Must PERSEVERE

[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

[2] Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

MEDITATE ON JESUS ~ Hebrews 12:3

[3] Consider **HIM** who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

APPLICATION

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KEEP ON STRUGGLING ~ Hebrews 12:4

[4] In your struggle against sin, you have NOT YET resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Hebrews 10:32-36 (NIV) Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. [33] Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. [34] You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. [35] **So do not throw away your confidence**; it will be richly rewarded. [36] **You need to persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Two sins are in view here: the daily sins, things in life that TRIP us, ENTANGLE us, and bring us down; and the CROWNING sin of throwing in the towel, of giving up the race altogether... JBP

APPLICATION

John 15:20 (NIV) Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is GREATER than his MASTER.' If they persecuted ME, they will persecute you also...

Salvation by Grace is FREE - we cannot earn it - we don't deserve it - it is God's Free Gift to us

Discipleship is COSTLY - we are called to DAILY Obedience - to Daily SURRENDER

John 6:67 ...Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.

So why should we follow Jesus?

He is the **ONLY ANSWER** that makes any sense in a world **gone totally crazy**.

He is the **ONLY** one who **brings PEACE** out of the chaos and the turmoil in our Lives.

He is the **ONLY** one who can **help us FACE** the **HARD THINGS** we will ALL face.

John 15:20 (NIV) ...No servant is greater than his MASTER. If they persecuted ME, they WILL persecute you also...

John 16:33 (NIV) I have told you these things, so that IN ME you may have peace. In this world you WILL HAVE trouble. But take heart! I have OVERCOME the world.

TAKE AWAY ??

This passage teaches us that we must be totally **ABSORBED** with Jesus. This requires turning AWAY from those things that **distract us** - and then turning TOWARDS and **consciously focusing** and meditating on Jesus. RKHughes

[3] Consider HIM who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow WEARY and lose heart.

This is a **challenge** to take our **suffering** - our **hardship** and TURN it INTO a Worship Experience

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT) That is why we NEVER give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

[17] For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

[18] So we don't LOOK at the TROUBLES we can see now; rather, we FIX our GAZE on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Don't let Fatigue, Pain, or Criticism force you to look AWAY from Jesus. Renew your commitment to serving Christ. Don't forsake your eternal reward because of the intensity of today's pain. Your very weakness allows the resurrection power of Christ to strengthen you moment by moment. LABC

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