

**Sermon Outline and Discussion Guide for Adult Bible Study and Family Visiting**

**January 12, 2014**

**Run the Race of Faith with Endurance**

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

Intro: Hebrews 12:1c *“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”*

The Greek word translated ‘race’ is \_\_\_\_\_ from which we get our English word \_\_\_\_\_.

As the author of the book of Hebrews looks to the future he senses a high probability of \_\_\_\_\_.

How should this inform our own expectation concerning the Christian Life?

**I. Fired Up by the Saints Who Surround Us**

Hebrews 12:1a *“Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”*

What does the Bible mean by the term ‘Saints’?

In what sense are these Old Testament saints witnesses to us?

Do those who have gone before us really watch us from Heaven?

What other Heroes of Faith would you cite from your knowledge of church history?

Do you consider a member of your family or a personal acquaintance a hero of faith?

Does God call all of us to some kind of heroism in running the race of faith?

**II. Freed From the Sin that Would Hinder Us**

Hebrews 12:1b *“Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings to closely,”*

What kind of weight would hinder us in running the race of faith?

Is all weight necessarily sinful? When might it become sinful? (See Luke 21:34 and Colossians 3:8)

What is ‘The Sin’?

Why is ‘The Sin’ so damaging to the Christian Life and the Race of Faith?

What’s Esau got to do with it?

(OVER)

### **III. Focused on the Savior Who Died for Us**

Hebrews 12:2

*“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith ...”*

Jesus is not listed in the heroes of faith line up. Jesus is in a category all by Himself.

Jesus is the ‘archegon’ and ‘teleiotes’ the \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith.

What is the result of looking at ourselves?

Does that explain why you often feel the way you do about your ‘race performance’?

What is the result of looking to Jesus? How significant is ‘the Cross’ in this look?

What is the relationship of discipline to endurance?

Why is discipline so strengthening and encouraging?

Did Jesus undergo discipline during His earthly ministry?

Discuss the importance of focus and its relationship to destiny and endurance.