

*instructing us to deny
ungodliness and worldly desires
and to live sensibly, righteously
and godly in the present age,*

Titus 2:12

Store In My Heart Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Hebrew writer urges his readers to make every effort to finish the spiritual race. The "witnesses" stand as proof that it can be done. The writer also reminds us to keep our 'eye on the prize.' Our desire is to reach Jesus for an eternal reward. Jesus stands as an example of one who stayed the course to the end despite great odds. He now awaits each of us at the throne of God. One day He will return to take those who endure home to be with God forever. Will you keep running?



But I ...

Dan Henderson

It seems that everywhere I look good people are constantly complaining about how things are going. If not about sickness, I hear complaints about how much fuel costs are increasing. Or the weather is wrong, too hot, too wet, too windy are common phrases. The government is wrong is another common idea. When someone offers solutions based on Scriptures that instruct us to trust in God, many complain and counter with how we need to confront and combat the evil around us.

When things do not go the way we might wish we need to be careful how we choose to react. It is easy to look around and notice everything that is going wrong and then cry out to God, "Why will you not help me? I am doing good and following your will, but you seem to be against me." My good conduct should keep me from having to suffer like the evil ones around me. We remember all those verses where God promises to watch over and keep us and automatically apply them to life on Earth. The price increases on our favorite snack and we think, "But Jesus said God would take care of things if I put His kingdom first." This should not be happening to me. Sometimes we even begin to blame God for the difficulties that we are facing.

I am convinced that God has given us the answer to every problem we may face in life. I also know that sometimes I will not like the answer He has given. That does not change the fact that He has given a solution! We need to look to the Word that has been left to guide us to Heaven if we want to find the answer and we need to be willing to accept what God has said no matter how we feel about it.

Now we could turn to Job and find some teaching regarding these things. But we are familiar with Job's 'conversation' with

God and how that turned out. Maybe it is time to consider a more pointed response. Recently I have been reading in Jeremiah. We all know he was a prophet during the time when God brought destruction upon the Jewish nation for their continual wickedness and idolatry. Have you read **Jeremiah 45** recently? (Go read it now. I'll wait for you to read it.) Baruch, his scribe, had evidently been complaining that all he had was sorrow and pain. He felt weary and tired. Judah was falling apart around him. They were being invaded by foreign kingdoms and it was causing Baruch problems. Baruch felt the Lord was causing him more trouble than he deserved.

Jeremiah 45 records a message from the Lord to Baruch regarding his complaint. He told Baruch that he should be glad to get away with his life considering what God was doing. The Lord said he was destroying the entire land that he had built. Baruch's suffering was nothing in light of the suffering of wicked Judah, or for that matter, God's suffering at having to punish Judah again. In plain words God told Baruch to quit complaining about a little suffering when destruction was all around him. He was only focusing on self when God was concerned with an entire nation.

There is a lesson for us in this short chapter. First, God never promised that we would not suffer. In fact, Paul tells us that persecution is certain for those who serve the Lord. (**2Timothy 2:3, 3:12**) Second, we do not see things from God's vantage point. He has plans and is busy working in ways which we will never comprehend. (**Isaiah 55:8-9**) And finally, God has promised to get us out alive. He has never promised any greater reward than overcoming death to be with Him for eternity. Even when He destroys everything He built, He will give life to those who chose to serve Him faithfully in midst of the wickedness of this world. Job, Noah, Lot and even Baruch escaped His destruction with their lives. We will receive the same reward if we are faithful. Quit complaining and turn your focus to eternity.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Paula Laubach's is back to keeping weight off her foot.

Jim Soliday starts new meds for heart rhythm this week.

Sue Soliday is having some shoulder trouble.

Jack Brooks will have sinus surgery in mid-November.

Deberah Brooks is having some knee trouble.

Brandy Tolleson will see a neurologist after having a small stroke. She is gaining more strength.

Leta Rivera is still having difficulty breathing.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are in Mexico this week.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 33:2** Wednesday - **Revelation 2:18**