

Sermon Notes

Running the Christian Life Course Well

Hebrews 12:1-3

Christian Sanich, 2/26/2017

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

12:1 Let us run the race that is set before us by God.

Let us lay aside every encumbrance (weights on us) that hold us back from living fully the ways God wants us to.

What is your encumbrance(s)?

Assess family members, ask those close to you, and pray.

Let us lay aside the sin which so easily entangles us.

What is the sin(s) that so easily entangles you?

Assess people you hang around, places you go, and things you expose yourself to.

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Let us run with endurance.

The Christian life can be hard to maintain, but let's not give up.

How to have endurance:

12:2 Fix our eyes on Jesus, our leader, our main example.

Jesus obeyed God, enduring great difficulty - the cross.

Jesus focused on the end goal - sitting down at the right hand of God.

When we need to obey God, and it is going to be difficult, we can do as Jesus did, focus on the joy of the end goal, which for us is rewards in resurrection, and ultimately heaven.

12:3 Think about Jesus enduring, so that you don't get sick and tired of living the Christian life, and give up.

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

If you would like to receive weekly sermon application questions, e-mail Christian@StoneCreekBibleChurch.org

Application questions for 2/26/17 sermon

Hebrews 12:1-3

Running the Christian Life Course Well

Explain what you think it means to run the life course well which God has set before you?

(Try to have everyone answer this question.)

An encumbrance is something that we may not necessarily identify as sinful behavior, but it weighs you down. What “encumbrance” may be holding you back from living fully the ways Gods wants you to? (Examples mentioned in the sermon are on the next page.)

What plan could you put in place for regularly identifying encumbrances in your life?

(Try to have everyone answer this question. But if they are too embarrassed to share it with the whole group, maybe they would commit to share it with one member of the group.)

What sin is holding you back from running the life course well as a Christian?

Here are a couple follow-up questions to help you identify that sin:

What is the sin you keep doing?

What is the sin that maybe has been around so long that you may just view it as part of your personality, but it’s not good according to God?

(We don’t always identify as sin the things that God calls sin. You can take a look at these passages for further reference: Romans 1:29-31, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 4:25-32. You may want to read them in a simple version like NLT, because some of the words are hard to understand.)

How does this sin complicate your life, or how does it keep you from living the way God wants?

How can you “lay aside” that sin, so it does not constantly get in your way?

Are there people you could choose to not be around or things you could choose to not expose yourself to, because currently they lead you to sin?

(Try to have everyone answer this question.)

What is so difficult about living the Christian life that it makes you want to give up sometimes? (Examples mentioned in the sermon are on the back page.)

What seems like it might be effective for you, to help keep you from giving up?

Do you have a question for the group? It might be something you don't understand that others could help with, or something you think should be covered that hasn't.

Questions from the sermon about what might be your encumbrance(s):

Do you have some hurt from your past that you hold onto and it weighs you down?

Do you take on many tasks, which in-and-of themselves may be “good things”, but keep you so busy that maybe you are not taking time for the things God wants you doing.

Do you have a hobby that maybe is excessive?

Do you have some thought of what you think your life is supposed to be, but it's not, and so your walking through life bummed, even depressed, maybe even blaming God.

Do you may have what is referred to as a “victim mentality”? That's where you regularly think life is not fair, or people are always holding you back.

Is there some behavior pattern you learned from your family that is not good?

You singles and students, be careful of dating someone who's not really living for Christ; they will likely hinder you living for Christ.

Examples from the sermon of things that can be difficult about living the Christian life:

Continuing to grow in Christian behavior requires endurance. There are always more ways to grow, things God wants to change about our character, our behavior, our thinking.

When you have a certain sin that keep rearing its ugly head, it can be hard to keep fighting.

It can be hard to continue serving in ministry. You may feel like you've served your time. Ministry gets hard.

Continuing to give, especially when your finances get tight.

Continuing to be committed to your marriage, and trying to keep it the good kind of relationship God wants.

Continuing to share Jesus with people when you've faced much rejection, or hostility.