

## Faith for the Marathon

July 9, 2023

Hebrews 12:1-3

Pastor Mark Turner

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

**To run the Christian Marathon with endurance, Faith focuses on Jesus who endured the cross & received the reward.**

### 1. The Christian life is a marathon we must run

- Marathon's are long and hard requiring preparation

#### **To run we must lay aside every weight which hinders**

- Ancient runners ran naked, not in heavy gear
- Things that hinder:
  - daily choices
  - recreation; travel
  - Don't ask: "can I get away with this?" rather ask, "will this help me grow in godliness?"

#### **We must throw off sin that clings**

- Sin holds us back
- Take inventory Gal 5:16-24
- Sin easily captures us Jms 1:14-15
- Agree with God about sin 1 Jn 1:9 and ask for His help!

#### **We must run with endurance the Race set before us**

- God sets the course!
- Remember, God has set the perfect course for us<sup>2Cor12:9</sup>
- We must run with endurance
- Satan's greatest lie is that God is not Good or Gracious

### 2. Our encouragement to keep running come from those who have run before and mainly from Jesus Himself!

- The cloud of witnesses should encourage us
  - they're not looking down 'watching us' rather their lives should inspire us to persevere
- Jesus' work is our primary motivation
  - Jesus is the founder or author of our faith
  - Jesus is the perfecter or finisher of our faith
  - Jesus shows us what true faith entails
- We can run with endurance by fixing our eyes on Jesus
  - fix our eyes – don't be distracted!
  - don't just examine self<sup>2Cor13:5;1Cor11:28</sup>, look to Jesus more than self – His work is what counts!
  - Jesus didn't get distracted by hostility (world) – likewise keep looking in faith to the Glory of the Gospel!

## Faith for the Marathon

July 9, 2023

Hebrews 12:1-3

Pastor Mark Turner

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

**To run the Christian Marathon with endurance, Faith focuses on Jesus who endured the cross & received the reward.**

### 1. The Christian life is a marathon we must run

- Marathon's are long and hard requiring preparation

#### **To run we must lay aside every weight which hinders**

- Ancient runners ran naked, not in heavy gear
- Things that hinder:
  - daily choices
  - recreation; travel
  - Don't ask: "can I get away with this?" rather ask, "will this help me grow in godliness?"

#### **We must throw off sin that clings**

- Sin holds us back
- Take inventory Gal 5:16-24
- Sin easily captures us Jms 1:14-15
- Agree with God about sin 1 Jn 1:9 and ask for His help!

#### **We must run with endurance the Race set before us**

- God sets the course!
- Remember, God has set the perfect course for us<sup>2Cor12:9</sup>
- We must run with endurance
- Satan's greatest lie is that God is not Good or Gracious

### 2. Our encouragement to keep running come from those who have run before and mainly from Jesus Himself!

- The cloud of witnesses should encourage us
  - they're not looking down 'watching us' rather their lives should inspire us to persevere
- Jesus' work is our primary motivation
  - Jesus is the founder or author of our faith
  - Jesus is the perfecter or finisher of our faith
  - Jesus shows us what true faith entails
- We can run with endurance by fixing our eyes on Jesus
  - fix our eyes – don't be distracted!
  - don't just examine self<sup>2Cor13:5;1Cor11:28</sup>, look to Jesus more than self – His work is what counts!
  - Jesus didn't get distracted by hostility (world) – likewise keep looking in faith to the Glory of the Gospel!