

Finishing the Race Together Through Christ

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Hebrews 12:15-17

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

God designs His Children's Pain for their Good & Holiness, So Believers must Care for Those Running with Them.

- Care Ministry belong to every in the Church
 - 'See to it' plural meaning all believers
 - Don't buy into lies that you must be perfect... Gospel!
 - Paul Gal 6;1-2
 - You who are spiritual Gal 5:16,19-21,22-24
 - God wants spiritual children not 'super-spiritual' children

Hindrances that Affect Believers in the Race

peace & holiness: 2 great commands^{Mk12:29-31}

1. We may drop out because we miss the Grace of God

- This is not losing salvation, this is never having salvation
- Salvation is not a human decision, but God's gift^{Eph2:1-5}
- Warning to not just think church saves you^{Heb3:16-18}

2. We may drop because we become bitter due to trials and the false ideas all around us.

- Beware root of bitterness – drawn from Dt 29:18-20
- 'I did this and God owes me' = bitterness

Gospel Basics: God's Provision for Sinners

- you are a sinner justly deserving God's wrath^{Jms2:10;Rm3:23}
- you can't earn or deserve salvation, only by God's grace^{Eph2:8-10}
- By faith rest in Christ's provision: saved from the penalty of sin; saving us from the power of sin; we will be saved from the presence of sin.

- Guard your heart from bitter roots^{Prv4:23}

3. We may drop because we get caught up in passions

- Warning against sexual immorality and unholiness
- Esau example^{Gen26:34-35}
- Esau knew Covenant promises^{Gen12:15,17}, traded for a meal

4. We may drop out because we don't desire God as the blessing.

- 'afterward' was more concerned about things than God
- sexual sins/passions dangerous^{1Cor6:18}
- Study Esau – learn from his disregard

Seek God, not things, delight yourself in the Lord

- Psa 37:4
- Psa 73:25-26