

*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*

– Hebrews 6:19

**9/6/24**

**Arrive & Eat Supper**

**Welcome**

**Prayer**

**Section 2 – Consistency – Chapter 4 – The Pace of Grace**

**Closing Prayer**

**Section 2 – Consistency**

**Chapter 4 – The Pace of Grace**

Running the Race of Life

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. - 2 Timothy 4:7

God’s Plan:

Psalm 139:16b - all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came

to be.

Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you

and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Hebrews 12:1 – “the race marked out for us.” – What is God’s calling and purpose for your life?

Our Call:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Run with perseverance…A marathon, not an adrenaline-fed sprint.

* Throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles…loosen your load!
  + Overcome the thought that “it won’t get done unless I do it.”
    - Our egos, motives, & insecurities misguide us.
  + Exodus 18 – Jethro’s advice to Moses - Delegation
  + Matthew 11:30 – “My yoke is easy & my burden is light.”
    - V. 28-29 – Receive rest for your souls.
  + 2 Corinthians 6:1 – As God’s co-workers…Work with Him!
    - John 5:17 - “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”
    - John 15:7 - “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.”
    - Psalm 55:22 – Cast your burdens upon Him.
  + James 4:7 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
* Fix our eyes on Jesus…not on the temporal or emergent
  + “Alack of planning on your partdoes not constitute an emergency on my part.”
* Don’t grow weary and lose heart…Don’t burn out and drop out.
  + “Satan drives us, Jesus leads us.”
  + Galatians 6:9 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

1 Cor. 9:24, 27 - Run in such a way as to get the prize.

* + Luke 9:23 - Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.
* I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.
  + - Self-control & Discipline

Galatians 2:2 – I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.

Galatians 5:7 – You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the

truth?

Acts 20:24 – I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and

complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

Matthew 25:23 - “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been

faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

In the midst of the culture’s relentless onslaughts, requests, demands, drive, & storms of life,

are you…Fixed…Immovable…Consistent…Enduring…& Dependable?

Paul said, “I have become all things to all people so that I might win some” - 1 Corinthians 9:22

Yet, in trying to make everyone happy, we ultimately may make no one happy,

including ourselves, and most importantly, God.”

What Needs to Go?

Inappropriate Priorities

Luke 10:38-42 - We take on “Martha” priorities when “Mary’s” minimalism is preferable.

1 Corinthians 7:17 - each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them.

John 15:16 – We are appointed to bear fruit that lasts.

Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters…Philippians 1:6 - He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Overextended Relationships

We need to examine and prioritize our relationships, spending time with those whom God has called for us to go and minister to.

The Apostle Paul did not go to everyplace He wanted to go.

Acts 16:6 - Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

Also, Paul understood his priority: Romans 11:13 - I am the apostle to the Gentiles.

We need to minister to those who deserve our time and can benefit the most from our ministry.

Jesus’ Circles of Priority:

He/God the Father/Holy Spirit – Mountainside Prayer

Inner Circle – Peter, James, John

12 Disciples

70 Disciples/2-by-2

Others He Chose to Teach and Minister to in His Path

Jesus’ Exclusion – His Own Family – Mark 3:31-35

Who should be in your concentric circles of influence?

Wife, Children, Grandchildren, Other Family, Church Family, Mentees, Others…

Obsessive Accumulation

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth…

How much is “enough?” How much is really needed? Live your life within “margins.”

10/10/80 Rule – Tithe/Save/Live Off Of

90% Budget – Spending at 90% of previous year’s income

Live Below Your Means – Just because you have it doesn’t mean you should spend it.

Emergency Fund – Top of the barrel, when needed – Dave Ramsey – 3-6 month’s expenses

Improper Opportunities

“Just because a door or window of opportunity is open does not mean you should go through it.”  
Proverbs 4:25 - Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.

Psalm 32:8 - I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. See also: Isaiah 30:21, 48:17; John 16:13