

Hebrews 11 : 39 – 12 : 3

Surrounded by a Great Cloud of Witnesses

“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

[NOTE: Hebrews 11 is known by many as the “Hall of Fame” of the Bible. In this chapter, there are so many GREAT stories of so many GREAT heroes who were commended for their faith from the Old Testament. Many of these people were rescued and delivered from impossible situations. Many, however, did NOT receive their promised deliverance, since God had even better plans for them. Now, this “Hall of Fame” includes heroes of faith from the New Testament. And, yes, it includes our own heroes—our parents, grandparents, family, and friends, who lived Godly lives, trusting the Lord for salvation, and who have gone to Heaven before us!

This is OUR “great cloud of witnesses,” and as they watch us live and try to succeed in our lives as we run OUR races today, don’t you know that they are watching us and cheering us on to do our best? They are probably praying for us from Heaven, encouraging us when we have lonely, sad days of frustration, then cheering with us when we succeed.

In the meantime, we run the race of life that the Lord has set up for us, trusting him to help us accomplish what he has planned. Considering what HE suffered for us on the cross at Calvary, we should NOT get discouraged and lose heart when we face opposition and things don't go quite right! Just trust the Lord! He LOVES us SO MUCH, and we are HIS children! Let's make him proud of us!]

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**Dr. Robert J. Rapalje, Retired
Seminole State College of Florida
Altamonte Springs Campus
Email: rapaljer@mathinlivingcolor.com**