

Hebrews 12:1 : "Therefore" is always a summary response to what ⁽³⁷⁾ has just been identified. In this case it is the "faith" that made people righteous in God's sight. This "faith" is and always will be, taking God at His Word (believing what He tells us), acting upon that "word" with our best ability and trusting in the fact that the Messiah/Savior/Jesus the Christ will atone for the rest.

Therefore, since we are counted among those in Hebrews 11, stop harping on the past and start looking to the God given tasks that lie before us. And to do so not in a snail's pace but like a runner running the race. (Notice "running the race" is used in the New Testament only by Paul - 1 Corinthians 9:24, 2 Timothy 4:7, Galatians 5:7, and "I do not run aimlessly..." in 1 Corinthians 9:26).

Hebrews 12:2 Jesus is not only our Savior but our role model in the sense that He was the first one to run the race. He had the prize in His sight. That prize was redeeming our souls and that gave Him strength to endure and even "joy". It was how He overcame the shame, suffering, rejection and despise that He had to endure. And [He] "is seated at the right hand of God" because of it.

Hebrews 12:3-5 (first half) : "as sons" reminds us that we are called God's children! Joint heirs! Family!

Hebrews 12:5-6 : And as parents sometimes have to do, occasionally we get put in a time out. But not to make us suffer but rather to keep us from certain trouble if we continue on doing what it is we are doing.

Hebrews 7-10 repeat of 5-6

Hebrews 12:11 When it (punishment) is happening it is never pleasant but when we look back at what it trained us to stay away from it makes us thankful. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Hebrews 11:12: "Therefore" (since you now know what God's (38) punishment does to build you up), Cheer up! Get over it! Move on!

Hebrews 11:13-14: When we realize that we are His, love those who we come in contact with. Our Kindness when we feel angry might cause someone to "want what we have" (the peace that surpasses all understanding, that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus - Philippians 4:6-7). We saw that in last week's sermon on how, for example, Elisha led the Syrians who were trying to kill him to a banquet feast upon which they never attempted to destroy Elisha ever again. They undoubtedly had their hearts and minds transformed/renewed by the kindness that their enemy had showed them.

Hebrews 12:15-17: Esau's heart gradually distanced itself from God. Esau knew what he was doing when he sold his birthright. He probably even thought that he would get the blessing no matter what. That he could do no wrong. Esau only cried because he saw the \$\$ floating away. Those were never tears of repentance. He could have sincerely repented right away but he didn't. Same with Cain and Ishmael whose hate for their brother was greater than any other emotion. Malachi and Romans speak of how God thinks of those who hate the ones He loves (see printout)

Hebrews 12:18-21 (paraphrasing): "We don't come to the mountain (Mount Sinai) where God has warned no one to come, for if they do or even an animal does they should be put to death. A place where even the toughest of men shall tremble in fear. A place where a pure God gave His Commandments to a people who could never keep them."

Hebrews 12:22-24 No, you (we) have come to a place which is the city of God, a heavenly Jerusalem, where angels and

saints celebrate victoriously the God of grace. A place (39) where the righteous, who have been transformed in to perfection by the sprinkled blood of Jesus celebrate a new covenant rather than an old impossible to fulfill one.

Hebrews 12:25 Listen to Him. Read His Word. Heed the Holy Spirit's guiding. Be careful not to become complacent for He can still be the God of Mt. Sinai to those who refuse Him. (He is the same God but we can choose to have a God of Justice (not fun), a God of Mercy (Good), or a God of Grace (Supercalafrajdulistic-explalicious!).

Hebrews 12:26-29 A day is coming when God will once again shake the earth as He did in the Flood and at the giving of the Ten Commandments. It might be during the tribulation when mountains and Islands will be moved, or likely when He crushes this sin soaked creation and brings forth a "New Heaven and a new Earth". I believe the author is pointing to the latter because only those that are saved will not be moved.

Hebrews 13:1-2 Walk in love. If need be remember that God loves them as much as He loves us, Or love them because God loved us while we were still sinners. Or just love them because that act of compassion might be all they need to seek Jesus (remember the Syrians + Elisha). This Scripture implies that God will test us by sending angels in human form to test our character.

Hebrews 13:3 Don't judge those in prison. Some are there because of bad or absentee parenting, a false testimony, a wrongful conviction, etc. etc. etc. (Many have found Christ in prison). Or those who are mistreated since we too on occasion are mistreated because we are Christians (look at those imprisoned for peacefully

praying outside of Abortion factories.

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Hebrews 13:4 Keep marriage as it was intended: pure, holy, exclusive, respectful, loving, full of communication and care. Don't commit adultery in heart or mind.

Hebrews 13:5 The saying goes "Money is the root of all evil." That is a lie from Satan. Scripture never says that. Scripture says "The love of money is the root of all evil." And indeed it is. "Much of Hollywood and the music industry has fallen for that specific lie. I watched a segment of Olive Tree Ministries where a podcaster had spent time with Beyonce and they witnessed her sleeping in the rooms of stagehands because she couldn't deal with the torment of demons at night. Elvis and Michael Jackson both professed being miserably lonely. Unfortunately when you get to that level of popularity and wealth there is seldom a turning back. The money is too important. The tour must go on to keep the coffers full. Solomon lost sight of his mission because of money, so did Nebuchadnezzar and the Rich fool who wanted to build larger barns to store all his wealth. It started (I believe for a short while) the Rich Young rulers longing to follow Jesus and the Rich Man who didn't want to help Lazarus it was his eternal damnation.

-God tells us be content with what you have. God says if you have a lot, then help those you can. God says I will take care of you:

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply every need of yours (not want) according to His riches in glory, in Jesus Christ, Matthew 6:28-33 (see printout)

Hebrews 13:6 Basically: "If God is for me (and He is) who can be against me. And 'He will work all things together for the good of them that love Him,' And 'No weapon formed against me shall prosper.'"

Hebrews 13:7 look at your brothers and sisters in Christ. They have been through what you are going through and God helped them through. Let their testimony encourage you. Imitate them.