James #46

Lay aside the sin which so easily entangles you.

Open today in Hebrews chapter 12 RF.

We will be doing the Lord’s supper at the end of the message, please be prepared with a symbolic bread and cup.

Thank you so much for the vacation you allowed my wife and I …we greatly appreciate it.

Our current study has been revolving around the 3 areas of where pressure, temptation and adversity have their roots.

/3 Areas of where we find the roots of temptations, pressure and adversity;

The Word (cosmic system) - with all of its ideologies and distractions and temptations.

The OSN – our Adamic nature at its very core is extremely narcissistic and anti-god. It has areas of weakness & strength, as well as trends and lust patterns.

The Kingdom of darkness – Satan and his vast army promotes human good as well as evil. Satan ultimately desires a world system he can sit atop of (Isa 14:12-16).\

Our current focus that we left off on, is a deeper look into the OSN.

There is an area of weakness which produces many personal sins — within Hebrews chapter 12, we see this principle.

/The doctrine of hamartiology (sin) focuses on three types of personal sins — mental, verbal, overt. The soul structure (mentality), is where all sins are born and nurtured. The old sin nature has an area of strength which produces human good in contrast to divine good. Most Christians do not fully grasp the areas of weakness and strength, they lack depth of BD which is often misplaced into emotions and socially appropriate standards.\

Hebrews chapter 11 at the end is leading directly into chapter 12 – because the conclusion of faith, as the key element for every dispensation was keenly highlighted in chapter 11.

The end of chapter eleven points us directly into the CA Royality and our need within the plan of God.

/Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented 38 (*people* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, on mountains, and *sheltering in* caves and holes in the ground.\

Chapter eleven highlights many OT heroes, Bels who had accepted Christ as savior and yet had not received their full eternal rewards…yet!

/[Heb 11:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/11/39/s_1144039) And all these, having gained **approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised**, 40because God has provided something **better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.**\

This is very specifically speaking to Church Age Christians.

(mystery doctrine)

Since part of God the Father’s plan, having provided something better for us (Church Age Royality), so that apart from us the OT super-grace heroes have not been made complete, in reference to all covenants, crowns, blessings and rewards.

 REPEAT

They are all waiting for our completion and then the fulfillment of the Rapture, Tribulation and Millennial Reign – then into eternity to reap full benefits.

In fact, in prophecy - Israel will receive all promises pertaining to the throne of David and the real estate covenant to Abraham…at the 2nd Advent of Christ when Israel’s discipline and separation are complete.

There are some covenants and prophetic events yet to be fulfilled.

Even the Jewish holidays and most of the rituals will be reinstated as well.

/Apart from the interruption of the CA, the super-grace heroes of the Old Testament do not get full rewards. Though they are waiting in bliss within the third heaven, they are last in line. The CA have to be the first in the line before the last principle applied. As royal family we get ours first, so after admiring all of the incredible OT heroes, we are encouraged now to press on so that they can have theirs.\

When you do not recognize accurate theology, in relation to dispensations. Then confusion and wrong principles emerge like replacement theology.

Assuming everything in the OT prophecy and promises are fulfilled.

Now notice how this flows into chapter twelve;

/Heb 12:1 Therefore, **since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us,** let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle and **the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let’s **run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

This is exclusively speaking to CA Bels – we too have witnesses. We too are involved in the Angelic Conflict; we are in the intensified stage of invisible warfare.\

Notice we are called to habitually lay aside the struggles in the OSN – do not keep dwelling on them or stumbling, move forward.

To lay aside speaks to washing sins from your daily walk.

/Heb 12:1 - the sin which so easily entangles us – (*euperistatos*);

To be tangled, tripped and compromised on all sides. To be surrounded by elements of problems that force you to fall or sit down. Areas of weakness in the OSN.\

EE-PAY-RIST-A-CUST, a Hapax legomenon, a very unique word, used once here in NT Greek – coming from three root words. A stumbling block, may be a good definition, tripping up an athlete in a race was an application of this term.

The weak areas of the Adamic nature entangles us and trips us up from all angles, they bring forth stumbling and set us on the side lines.

 REPEAT

We are commanded to stay in the race – to run - *trechō,(TRAC-OH)* is derived from the Greek games and may well be where we get are English term *track-meet* from.

The present tense and active voice, point to our own responsibility - habitually staying the course in our own race.

 REPEAT

/We must have a balanced life especially between the filling of the Holy Spirit and studying then applying Bible doctrine. Once that balance is achieved the Believer begins to live a normal life as a royal priest, heading into maturity. If you show signs of positive volition, signs of steadfast persistence, God will keep you alive long enough to reach higher into super-grace. Positive attitude, therefore, is one of the most important attributes in life.\

Even though we absolutely have an active OSN kicking against us, the cosmic system distracting us, along with a full throttle KOD in stealth mode.

We were given many examples of failures and weaknesses seen in the lives of all OT Bels and each one of them, were unique in their own way.

Just like the NT leaders, all very unique personalities like all of us!

We can learn grow and gain hope and strength in studying their lives.

Here is the answer for the weak areas of your old sin nature RF;

/[Heb 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/2/s_1145002) **looking only**(*aphoraō*) **at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Fixing your eyes, to concentrate, to become attentive, to contemplate within the soul, to become very introspective within the mind. \

AH-PARA-HO, this is not a causal stare, this points to a deeper concentration. The present tense telling us to continue to do this.

Stop focusing on the problem and the weak area, focus on the answer in Christ.

Think about all HE has done and what HE has given us to combat spiritual warfare.

For me personally, I know the charge of the rhino is much easier for me than the bites of the mosquito.

That is often part of my own struggles and weak areas.

[Heb 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/3/s_1145003) For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

/Everything is written for our benefit, focusing on the person and work of TLJC, studying and meditating on HIS life and HIS mind (BD) that is the answer. By definition occupation with Christ is the highest spiritual function of the Believer. It is category #1 love in which the mature Christian with Bible doctrine in the soul is capable of (impersonal & unconditional) virtue love.\

It turns into Category two love which is much more intimate over time. Everyone believes they immediately love the LORD on a personal level. Yet until they grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, personal love will have no real strength.

 REPEAT

[Heb 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/4/s_1145004) You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

Now we see the reminder that even when we fail miserably in our OSN, GOD had that addressed in eternity past.

All dealt with in HIS perfect plan - possibly billions of years ago.

[Heb 12:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/5/s_1145005) and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE PUNISHED BY HIM;

[Heb 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/6/s_1145006) FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,AND HE PUNISHES EVERY SON WHOM HE ACCEPTS.”

(Prov 3:11-12) never forget this principle even on our worst day and within our miserable failures - we have a FATHER who is fair, just and pure love, HE will get us back on course.

[/Heb 12:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/7/s_1145007) **It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

Once a Bel grows beyond the baby stage, they begin to understand and view the need for discipline when they purse the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, over the Tree of life! \

[Heb 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/8/s_1145008) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Your teenagers and little ones may hate to hear this, but it is doctrinally sound…discipline at the right time and the right amount - is love.

[Heb 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/9/s_1145009) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected *them;* shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

God disciplines for our own safety and growth, it is never from anger.

*/"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S. Lewis*

 *‘The Problem of Pain’* \

[Heb 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/10/s_1145010) For they disciplined *us* for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.

[/Heb 12:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/11/s_1145011) **For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant**, but painful; yet to those who have been **trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness**.

This is the attitude of a Christian walking inside the plan of God, with a view to maturity on their heart.\

Let us prepare to take in the LORD’s Supper, as we do, let me read from the very words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;

Mat 7:8 “For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

/To ask, seek and knock speaks to a deeper intimacy with GOD, which is growth into maturity. It only happens by what you are doing right now; you studying HIS word, filled by the HS – asking, seeking and knocking. It is seen in your lifestyle of time, talent and treasure directed at your relationship with GOD.\

Your weak area within your old sin nature does not need to impede you at all. God the Father accounted for all of it in eternity past.

/[Mat 7:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/7/9/s_936009) “Or what person is there among you who, **when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone**? 10“Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11 “**So if you, *despite* being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children**, how much more will **your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**\

Notice Jesus did not pull any punches – all of us have an OSN which has deep rooted potential for evil and human good.

Yet we are able to offer kindness, compassion and good parental skills…how much more can the Father in heaven offer HIS children?

Jesus Christ took the hit…HE suffered the discipline for a rebellious and sinful OSN for all of us. HE did so for the JOY set before HIM - you and I! (Heb 12:2)

/Jhn 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.\

Your sins are forgiven…rejoice and learn to live in HIS victory for us.

As we bring our Lord into remembrance look at what HE asked for while the Roman soldiers mocked HIM on the cross.

/ Luk 23:34 But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing His garments among themselves.\

On the night TLJC was so bitterly betrayed. HE took the bread and gave thanks, saying, “This is MY body …take and eat.”

In remembrance of our LORD - let us eat the bread.

In the same fashion Jesus lifted up the cup giving thanks. Saying, “For this is My blood of the new everlasting, covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

Take and drink, for each time you eat this bread and drink this cup - you bring ME into remembrance until I return.

Let us remember our LORD and drink the cup.

Let us pray…amen.