

Hebrews 12:1-2, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - So Great Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1

"Therefore, since we have so *great a cloud of witnesses* surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). The "great cloud of witnesses" referred to here are those faithful believers who have lived and died and are now in heaven, some of whom were listed in the preceding chapter (Heb. 11). But does this verse mean they are watching us from heaven? Maybe or maybe not. The verb form of the word "witness" is used five times in Hebrews 11 always referring to the giving of a testimony rather than the mere watching of an event. Abraham, Moses, David, Jeremiah, John, Paul, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Moody, and thousands of others, witness to us even now by the testimony of the race they have already run. Their lives declare, "By faith I finished and you can too!" They challenge us to run with endurance and to be the men and women of faith in the twenty-first century. Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8

☐ Tuesday - The Weight of Sin.

Hebrews 12:1

"Let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). In John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian had to remove the weight from his back before he could continue his quest. In the story, his weight was the burden of sin. Pet sins hinder us from running the Christian race. They slow us down, retard spiritual growth, and drain us of energy. Christian, "put them all aside" that you may run and not grow weary. Read Colossians 3:8-9

☐ Wednesday - The Human Race.

Hebrews 12:1

The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint. And so Hebrews exhorts, "Let us run *with endurance* the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). But the Christian is not without help, for Lord Himself is our energy supply: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; *they shall run, and not be weary*; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). If the Christian life is wearing you down, maybe you've somehow gotten disconnected from the power source. Check your connection and see if you're plugged in. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-25;

☐ Thursday - Christ, the Forerunner.

Hebrews 12:2

Christians, we must "run the race with endurance, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith" (Heb. 12:2). The word "Author," Gk: *archegos* means forerunner. "Jesus is here viewed as the One, who Himself began and completed the whole course of faith, so as to be Himself the one perfect example and witness of what faith is" (Pink). He is "the Pioneer of personal faith" (Moffatt). "Jesus is presented as the One who has blazed the trail of faith and as the One who Himself ran the race of faith to its triumphant finish" (F. F. Bruce). Yes, Christ has finished the course, blazing a trail for us to follow. And now He sits at the finish line judging the race. But note how He stood to cheer Stephen on as he crossed life's finish line (Acts 7:55-60). Read Hebrews 11:1, 6

☐ Friday - He Rejoices Over You.

Hebrews 12:2

"For the *joy* set before Him [Jesus] endured the cross." What joy was that? Principally the joy of saving you and me! Read Zephaniah 3:17