

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for October 1, 2017**

**Running Toward Jesus**  
**Hebrews 12:1-3**

The author in Hebrews 12:1-3, comparing the Christian life to a long distance race and those running in that race to long distance runners, sought to further strengthen the faith of His readers by exhorting them to do three things.

The “witnesses” that are described as “so great a cloud surrounding us” are all those faithful Old Testament saints that had already been mentioned in Hebrews 11.

The “witnesses,” or in other words these Old Testament examples of faith, in Hebrews 11 were able to continue to bear witness to these struggling Hebrew believers through the biblical accounts of their lives of faith.

The exhortation that we will consider first is, “And let us run with endurance the race that has been set before us.”

The race that had been set before every true believer is the race of faith that every true believer enters into when they first come to Christ by faith and embrace Him as our Lord and Savior (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Those who believe that they have entered this race by faith must continue to live by faith if they want to continue to assure themselves that they are actually in this race of faith and thus saved (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38).

The second exhortation that we will be considering is, “Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us.”

The “encumbrances” are those things within our lives that are not sin but will make it more difficult for us to run the race of faith that has been set before us with endurance.

The reference to “the sin that so easily entangles us” and makes it so difficult for us to run with endurance the race of faith is the sin of unbelief or in other words the doubting of God and what He has said in His word.

The third and final exhortation that we will be considering is “fixing our eyes on Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Jesus is the author of faith because He is the originator of faith, in fact, He is the originator of all faith.

Jesus is the perfecter of faith because he was able to bring His perfect life of faith to completion when He through His death fully satisfied the debt we owed to God because of sin.

May we, with our eyes of faith fixed solely on Christ and all that He suffered, joyfully run with endurance the race that has been set before us, knowing that at the end of our race there is a heavenly reward awaiting us.