

“How Can I Live Like A Christian In This Culture?”

Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon Series: “You Asked For It”

Introduction-Question: How can I really live like a Christian and not just play church while surrounded by a culture of cultural Christianity, legalism, and social/political agendas?

-We can disqualify ourselves (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) or have a shipwreck concerning the faith (1 Timothy 1:18-20).

-So how can we really live like Christians and endure to the end while facing these kinds of challenges?

1. We can finish the race in faith by remembering that many others have run the race by trusting Jesus (v. 1).

-“Witnesses” does not mean “spectators” but is closer to our English word, “martyr.” It refers to people who testify. So, it’s not like a stadium full of people watching us and cheering us on, but it’s more like what Warren Wiersbe said, “These people are not witnessing what we are doing; rather, they are bearing witness to us that God can see us through.”

-Hebrews 10:35-39 gives the context to the whole section and leads into chapter 11, which is about faith, and the “therefore” at the beginning of verse 1 ties it all together

2. We can finish the race in faith by laying aside weights and sins so that we can run the race with endurance (v. 1).

-Weights: These are things that aren’t necessarily sinful but can hold us back in our Christian walks so they should be laid down for a greater good.

-Ask them to identify weights that may be holding them back (talk about how small changes can make a bigger difference than we realize) [1 Corinthians 6:12]

-Sins: Proverbs 28:13; explain how it affects us so much (quenching the Spirit) and how these things wear us down

Endurance: form of hupomeno, which means to “remain under”; talk about how this relates to endurance (“staying under” difficulties)

3. We can finish the race in faith by keeping our focus fixed on Jesus (v. 2).

-Stare at Jesus; keep our eyes on Him, put our eyes on Jesus and not all the things and people going on in the world around us

-Why fix our eyes on Jesus?

A. He is our example (of faith and endurance, talk about how He endured)

B. He is our enabler (Hebrews 4:14-16)

-How do we fix our eyes on Jesus?

A. Look to Him and trust Him as Savior (John 3:13-16)

B. Daily focus on Him as believers (Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Give practical suggestions for doing this