

"Racing To The Calling Of God"

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Hebrews 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us"

Here the Apostle Paul is comparing the Christian life to a race. It is a race to apprehend something that we do not have in our possession. Paul said in his letter to the Philippian Church, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus". Again this turns our minds to a race that is set before us and the chief end of that race is the high calling of God.

Each member of the body of Christ has a special call upon their lives to fulfill a certain ministry and to occupy that ministry until Jesus comes but this is not what the Apostle is speaking of here. This is a call that envelops the entirety of the body of Christ as a whole and not a select few. This call that we are to apprehend is simply the knowledge of Him who has given Himself unto His people.

Paul being perfectly inspired again utters, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings". Through all of the miraculous happenings of Paul's ministry and all of the churches started and converts made the Apostle had one thing he was racing towards and that was an intimacy with Christ Jesus. It was the knowledge of Him. This is the race that is set before us that we must press towards. It is not the apprehension of some ministerial position or the achievement of some religious goal that we have set for ourselves. Paul counted all of these things as but dung that he might win Christ.

All of our intellectual pursuits, our theological insight, our charismatic personalities and humanistic accomplishments are but dung in the eyes of God. Can we say that we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord?

The post-modern church seems to be lagging behind in the race, hindered by worldly attachments and enticing sin. The Apostle quickly points out that these things are weights that slow us down in the race to attain a personal knowledge, a heart knowledge of Christ Jesus. Every competitor in a race knows the value of shedding heavy articles before starting a race. We seem to be sluggish in our quest to know Him because of the weights we have placed upon ourselves. These weights might be disguised as prideful pursuit of popular preeminence, secular social dependence, self-centered religious attainments and self-motivated ministerial advancement.

Other weights might simply be worldly involvement, slothful standards, sin-tolerance and even dwarfed spiritual goals. We could name a thousand devils that we are involved with that are hindering us in the race to know our Lord the way He wants to be known. Sir, Ma'am, what are the weights hanging around your neck that are dragging you down and hindering your pursuit of God? Have you been offended by some brother or sister and now you refuse to attend the local church because of the offense you are holding on to? Holding on to this offense is torment to you and it will be impossible to run the race with this yoke about your neck! You are responsible to forgive that brother or sister and until you do your sins are being laid upon your own account instead of Christ's. Are you ready to pay the price for them?

Church it is time to free ourselves from the weights that are tied about our necks so that we might be able to run with patience the race that is set before us. Many Christians are fully able to free themselves of the burdens holding them back but they are unwilling. Others are willing but unable to get free alone but Jesus will set them free as they set their faces like a flint towards Him.

The ultimate goal is the intimate knowledge of Him! Friend, we are about to see the closure to this present age, are you ready? Does He know you? Are you living for Him? Everyone knows about Jesus but few know Him! Do you know Him?