

Listening Guide

Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015

Text: Hebrews 12:4-11

Series: Race to the Finish



Persecution: God's "Re-Formative" Training Plan

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Review:

- Hebrews 10:35 –
- Hebrews 10:36 –
- Hebrews 11:1-40 –
- Hebrews 12:1 –
- Hebrews 12:2-3 –

Sermon Idea:

In today's sermon, the church is reminded by the author of three truths that are designed to encourage Christians as they experience persecution and other difficult circumstances.

1. Remember the Gospel (Hebrews 12:4-5)

Context of the Hebrews' Persecution: Hebrews 10:32-34

What we need to remember:

- The Gospel _____
- That we are _____ of the Gospel
- As Gospel Soldiers, we need _____ !

Titus 2:11-12

"They needed to realize that their present hardships were a token of their heavenly Father's love for them, and the means by which he was training them." – F.F. Bruce

2. Remember Whose Family You Belong To (Hebrews 12:6-9)

Ephesians 1:3-5

Sonship or Illegitimate?

- “Illegitimate” – is used only here in the NT and should be understood in its ancient legal sense as descriptive of those who lack the privilege of family and the protection of a father.

1 Peter 4:12-13

3. Remember The Fruit of The Lord’s Discipline (Hebrews 12:10-11)

Muscle is to **Strength**, what **Endurance** is to **Faith**

a. Benefits of Discipline:

i. For our Good

ii. Share in God’s Holiness

iii. Peaceful Fruit of Righteousness

b. Application

i. Reverse Thinking

1. James 1:2

2. F.F. Bruce

ii. Coming Alongside One Another



Application Section

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Home Group Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Home groups meet weekly and will provide you an opportunity to review the message, and to apply it to your life personally. Also, thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the truths we are learning.

(Larger Group)

1. Was there any passage of scripture or statement in the message today that was particularly meaningful or applicable to you?

(Smaller Groups)

2. In what ways do you remember the Gospel on a daily basis? In what ways do you forget the Gospel on a daily basis? How can establishing such an important spiritual discipline help us to endure difficulties?

3. What does it mean to be a member of God's family?
 - a. What are the implications of being in His family for this life and for the next?
 - b. God disciplines us because He loves us. What kind of Father would He be if he did not prepare us for the race He has set before us to run?

4. Share painful times of brokenness that the Lord has used to grow your faith and your ability to endure. How has that experience produced fruit in your life? Encourage others in the group who are currently suffering!!!

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