

The Sin that Entangles

The context of our text is Heb.12:1-13. We will begin by examining the context by the following three homiletical points.

- Sin that entangles (Heb.12:1-3)
- Striving against the sin (Heb.12:4-11)
- Strengthen by divine discipline (Heb.12:12-13)

QUESTION:

- How is the encumbrance different from the sin that so easily entangles us?
- How do we lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles?
- What is the importance of the believer laying aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles?

This lesson will study five aspects of the Sin that Entangles.

1. The Greek word for encumbrance is ogkos. In context, ogkos refers to a weight, impediment, or hindrance to a runner.

“The Christian runner must rid himself of even of innocent things which might retard him. All that does not help, hinders. It is by running he learns what these things are.” (Wuest, pg.214)

In the parable of the Sower, the concept of the encumbrance is explained by the thorns:

(Mark 4:19) “And the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for others things enter in and **choke the word**, and it becomes unfruitful.”

The Church Age Believer (CAB) is instructed to lay aside (apotithemi / a.m.ptc. asn) “every encumbrance.”

The question is how do you lay it aside? (Acts 7:58) (1 John 1:9) (Eph.4:22-:24; Col.3:8-10; James 1:21-22; 1 Pet.2:1-3)

2. The second hindrance to the Christian runner is the sin that so easily entangles (euperistatos) [beset, easily encompassing].

The sin that so easily entangles us refers to the lust gratification trends of the Old sin Nature (OSN) (James 1:14-15; Rom.13:13-14).

The CAB is instructed to lay aside the sin that so easily entangles us. How do you do it? (1 John 1:9; Gal.5:16-17; Col.3:8-10)

(1 Pet.2:11) “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against your soul.”

What is the race that has been set before the Christian runner?

3. **The race (ton agon) [contest] is the plan of God.**

But we run in different heats and in different type of runs (dashes or distance). The “great cloud of witnesses” mentioned in the Hebrew 11 teach us this principle.

(Heb.12:1) “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

The specific run is the Directive Will of God. What was the big race set before Jesus to run?

(Heb.12:2) “Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.”

The Directive Will is the race that God “sets before you.”

Running the race will not be without difficulty but it should be without encumbrance and sin that so easily entangle.

Jesus’ success in running His race became the goal of the Christian’s race – “Fixing our eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfector of the faith.” (Heb.12:2; 2:10; 10:14)

4. **We are instructed to run our race with endurance (hupomone) by fixing (aphorao) our eyes on Jesus.**

“The minute the runner takes his eyes off the Lord Jesus, and turns them upon others, his pace in the Christian life is slackened and his onward progress in grace is hindered.” (Wuest, pg.215)

Aphorao refers to turning attention away from distracting things and to focus upon running the race to the finish (2 Tim.4:7).

Endurance requires the mental attitude of staying in the race and not quitting (1 Tim.6:12; 1 Thess.2:2; Phil.4:2-3).

Because of the Directive Will of God, faith is the key to running the race like the great cloud of witnesses and Jesus the Author and Perfector of Faith (Rom.10:17).

(Rom.4:21) “Being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform.”

5. **Heb.12:3 explains the importance of “fixing our eyes on Jesus as the Author and Perfector of the Faith” during our run to the finish.**

The writer of Hebrews intended to inspire the Christian runner with the Greek verb analogizomai (a.m.impv.2pl) [to consider by way of comparison].

Jesus Christ is the preeminent example of the Finisher of the Race. He is the preeminent example of endurance by faith without growing weary and losing heart and dropping out of the race (Matt.26:39).

Jesus Christ is also the preeminent example of the reward for fighting the good fight and for finishing the race, and for keeping the faith (2 Tim.4:7)

(2 Tim.4:8) “In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day; and not only me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

What reward did Jesus receive for finishing His race of the cross and for completing salvation forever and then was rewarded by sitting down at the right hand of the throne of God? (Heb.12:2) (Kathizo / perf.a.ind.3ps) [Sat down].