

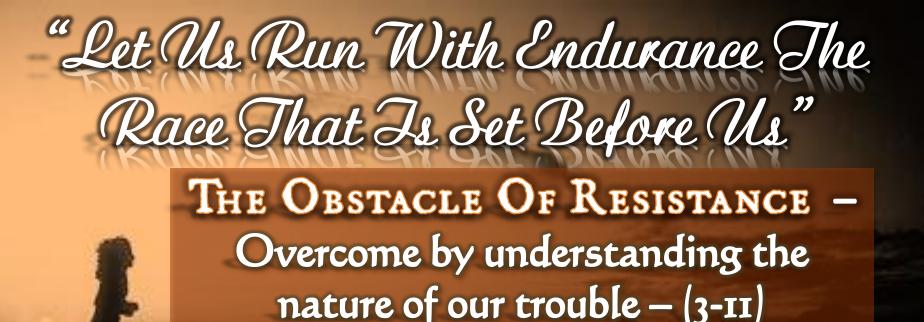


- Superiority of Christ and The New Covenant -(1,2,5,7-10)
- \bullet Examples of those who failed (3,4)
- ♦ Danger of turning back to the Old Testament -(6,10)
- igspace Great examples of faith -(11)
- ◆The race of faith which requires endurance through many obstacles – (12)



THE OBSTACLE OF DISTRACTIONS –
Overcome by focusing on Jesus – (1,2)

- ◆ The testimony of many witnesses (12:1; 11:1-40)
- Lay aside EVERY weight and EVERY sin
 − (12:1; Mark 10:37,38; Luke 8:14; 2 Tim
 2:4; Rom. 13:14; Col. 3:5-8; 2 Tim 2:5)
- Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith − (12:2; 1:1,2; 2:10; 6:19,20; 10:20; Luke 14:26-33)



- ◆ Consider Jesus (12:3; Luke 4:28-29; 11:53-54; 16:14; 1 Pet. 2:20-25; Mat 10:24)
- ◆ The life of faith is not a life of ease (instruction, training, correction, persecution - 12:4-11; Rom. 5:1-5; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; James 5:7-11)
- ◆ Not focusing on the present but the future reward (12:10,11; 2 Cor. 4:17)

The Obstacle Of Discouragement Overcome by strengthening our souls in following God's word – (12-17)

- → Hardships can lead to discouragement –

 (12:12; James 5:; 11:53-54; 16:14; 1 Pet. 2:20-25;

 Mat 10:24)
- ◆ Drawing strength and direction from God's word (12:13,14; Job 4:3,4; Prov. 4:18-27)
- Reward requires our pursuit of peace and holiness (12:14; Rom 12:18; 14:19; 1 Pet. 1:3:11; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 1:13-21; 1 Pet 1:13-21)

THE OBSTACLE OF DISCOURAGEMENT
Overcome by strengthening our souls in
following God's word – (12-17)

- → Hardships can cause one to fall away (12:15;2:1,2; 3:12; 4:1,11; 6:11; 10:23-35)
- ◆ Bitterness can spring up and defile us (12:15; Josh. 7:25,26; 1 Cor. 5:6; 15:33)
- ★ The fornicator and worldly person forfeits his reward – and for what? (the example of Esau selling his birthright – (12:16,17; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 15-20; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 Cor. 12:21)

The Obstacle Of Temporal Vision
Overcome through spiritual
understanding – (18-29)

- ★ We have NOT come to Mt. Sinai, but Mt. Zion, (the church) (12:18-23; Phili 3:20; Luke 17:21; John 18:36)
- ★ We have come to Jesus, the mediator of the N.C. – (12:24; 7:22; 8:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:18-21)
- ◆ We must harken to the words of Him who speaks (12:25-29; 1:1-3; 2:1-3; 8:5; Mat 17:5; 25:35; 2 Pet. 3:10,11)

The Obstacle Of Temporal Vision Overcome through spiritual understanding – (18-29)

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Dan. 2:44; Luke 1:33; Col. 1:13; Rev 1:5,6; 1 Pet. 1:4,5; 2:5; John 4:24; 1 Pet 1:17; 2 Thes 1:8



- ◆The obstacle of distractions overcome by focusing on Jesus – (1,2)
- ◆The obstacle of resistance overcome by understanding the nature of our trouble – (3-11)
- ◆The obstacle of despair overcome by strengthening our faith and hope – (12-17)
- ◆The obstacle of temporal vision overcome by spiritual understanding – (18-29)



- Are you allowing ANYTHING to keep you from serving God as you should?
- Requires self discipline, courage, faith and hope!
- **→** Are you even in the race?
- → Have you entered but fallen?

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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