

STUDY NOTES

HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message on 4/12/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 11:31-12:2

FAITH THAT IS EVIDENT

The writer of Hebrews builds off his list from the previous verses of specific people who acted on their faith. These people ran the race of life with the vision of Jesus as their prize. Some of these people saw really positive outcomes to their faith. Others saw really painful outcomes to their faith.

Regardless of external circumstances, what pleases God is faith in Him and in His word.

- *What is your experience in faith where you persevered into something that ended really positively?*
- *What is your experience in faith where you persevered through something really painful?*

FAITH IS TRANSFERRED

The people mentioned in these verses looked to God for their reward. They didn't look to the people in this world for their commendation. They didn't run their race to receive applause from men or women. They ran their race for both the prize of Jesus and the praise of God. These men and women should be examples to us today. In

chapter 12 verse one, the writer of Hebrews includes each of us in the race. The baton of faith has now been passed on to us. We have to ask ourselves these questions:

What race are you running? Is Jesus your prize?

- *How do the stories of these women and men encourage you to persevere in your faith during difficult times?*

RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE

Often we feel like there are things that weigh us down as we run the race of faith. The writer of Hebrews says that there are both weight and sin that we need to shed in order to run our race to the end with endurance. Some things that we carry aren't sinful, but they weigh us down from keeping our faith on Jesus. Other things are sinful things that keep us from running toward Jesus. Whatever the case may be, we have to lay those things aside and place Jesus at the forefront of everything that we do.

If you are running without Jesus in the forefront of your mind, then what race are you really running?

- *What are some things that aren't necessarily sinful that keep you from seeing Jesus at the forefront of your mind? What can you do to place Jesus in front of those things?*
- *What is something that is sinful that the Holy Spirit is convicting you to lay aside because it encumbers you from running the race toward Jesus?*
- *Pray with each other to place your eyes on Jesus, especially during this crisis.*