

***Finishing the Course***

<b>Monday 7/29</b>
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**Related Verses**

**2 Tim. 4:7**

7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

**Heb. 12:1**

1 Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,

**Heb. 10:35**

35 Do not cast away therefore your boldness, which has great reward.

**1 Cor. 3:14-15**

14 If anyone's work which he has built upon the foundation remains, he will receive a reward;

15 If anyone's work is consumed, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**Phil. 3:13-14**

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

**Related Reading**

The believers...experience the dispensing of the processed Triune God by running the course of the race. The Christian life is a race, and we are runners [Heb. 12:1]...Paul also says in 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold."...We must not only run, but run successfully in order to obtain the prize, which is a reward as an incentive to us. First Corinthians 9 reveals that the Christian course involves preaching the gospel. To preach the gospel is to dispense Christ into others. By dispensing Christ into those who are receptive to our preaching, we run the Christian course...When we preach the gospel, we are running the course. However, to receive a reward, a prize, at the coming of the Lord Jesus

is to have a particular enjoyment. (*Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 3, pp. 41-42)

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The race we are running is actually Christ Himself. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6). A race is a way, a course. Christ is the race because He is the way. The way we are walking is the race we are running...Although Christ is our way, we should not take this way simply as a way; rather, we should take the way as a race to run. We should not take the time to consider, look around, stand still, or walk slowly. We need to run the race until we can declare, like Paul did in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have finished the course." Paul began to run the course of the heavenly race after he was taken possession of by the Lord, and he continued to run (1 Cor. 9:24-26; Phil. 3:12-14) until he finished the course (Acts 20:24). Then at the end he triumphantly proclaimed, "I have finished the course." He also proclaimed that he would receive from the Lord a reward—the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8).

The prize that the believers win for running the race is an incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:25), which is a reward as an incentive. This reward will be given to us according to our works at the Lord's coming back (Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12; 1 Cor. 4:5). It will be decided at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) and enjoyed in the coming kingdom (Matt. 25:21, 23). This prize is not salvation in a common sense (Eph. 2:8; 1 Cor. 3:15) but a reward in a special sense (Heb. 10:35; 1 Cor. 3:14). Eternal salvation is by faith, having nothing to do with our work (Eph. 2:8-9), whereas the reward is for our work after we are saved (1 Cor. 3:8, 14). As believers in Christ, we have all received His salvation through faith...But whether we will be rewarded by the Lord depends on how we run the race.

In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul was running the race. In Philippians, one of his last Epistles, he was still running (3:14). It was not until the last moment of his running, in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, that Paul had the assurance that he would be rewarded by the Lord at His coming. With this reward in view, Paul charges us to run the race so that we may obtain an incorruptible crown.

If we would run the Christian race, we need to put off every unnecessary weight, every encumbering burden...In addition, we also need to put off "the sin which so easily entangles us" [Heb. 12:1]. Here the sin refers mainly to the thing that entangles us, hindering us from running the race. The encumbrances are outward, but the sin is inward, both of which frustrate us in running the race.

There is much opposition to the Christian race; therefore, in order to run this race, the believers must suffer opposition with endurance and never grow weary or faint in our souls (vv. 1, 3). (*Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 3, pp. 42-44)

Further Reading: *Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 3, Isn. 44

<b>Tuesday 7/30</b>
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**Related Verses**

**Heb. 12:2**

2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

**Psa. 27:4**

4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

**Heb. 12:3**

3 For compare Him who has endured such contradiction by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary, fainting in your souls.

**Rom. 3:22**

22 Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

**Gal. 2:16**

16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.

**Finishing the Course****Rom. 10:17**

17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**S.S. 1:4**

4 Draw me; we will run after you - The king has brought me into his chambers - We will be glad and rejoice in you; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

**Related Reading**

[In Hebrews 12:2] the Greek word translated “looking away unto” means “to look with undivided attention by turning away from every other object.” The runners in a race, such as the hundred yard dash, turn away from everything else and look at the goal with undivided attention. In this verse Paul seems to be saying, “Hebrew brothers, do not stand there considering and looking around. You must turn away from everything other than Christ and look to Him with undivided attention”...The Hebrew believers had to look away from all the things in their environment, away from their old religion and its persecution, and away from all earthly things, that they might look unto Jesus, who is now seated on the right hand of the throne of God in the heavens. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., p. 550)

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The saints of the old covenant were only the witnesses of faith, but Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of faith. The Greek word translated “Author” may also be rendered “Originator,” “Inaugurator,” “Leader,” “Pioneer,” “Forerunner.”...If we put all these titles together, we have an adequate definition of Jesus as the Author of faith.

We need Jesus as the Author of faith because, according to our natural man, we do not have any believing ability. We do not have faith by ourselves. The faith by which we are saved is the precious faith that we have received from the Lord (2 Pet. 1:1). When we look unto Jesus, He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) transfuses us with Himself, with His believing element. Then, spontaneously, a kind of believing arises in our being, and we have the faith to believe in Him. This faith is not of ourselves but of Him who imparts Himself as

the believing element into us that He may believe for us. Hence, He Himself is our faith. We live by Him as our faith; that is, we live by His faith (Gal. 2:20), not by our own.

Jesus is the Author and the Originator of faith mainly in His life and in His path on earth...The life He lived was a life of faith, and the path He walked was a path of faith. In His life and path He originated faith. Hence, He is the Author of faith.

Jesus, being the Pioneer and the Forerunner, has cut the way of faith...His life was a cutting life, a life that cut the way of faith. Wherever He went, it seems that there was a mountain or a river frustrating Him. But step after step, He cut the way of faith. If we have this view in reading the Gospels, we will see that the very Jesus who is the Originator of faith was always cutting the way of faith, closing the gaps and removing the mountains like the builder of a highway. Since He has cut the way of faith, He is also the Pioneer and Forerunner on the pathway of faith.

As the Pioneer and the Forerunner of faith, Jesus is also the Leader and Captain of faith. He has cut the way of faith and, as the Forerunner, has taken the lead to pioneer it. Hence, He, as the Captain, can carry us through the pathway of faith in His footsteps. As we look unto Him as the Originator of faith in His life and in His path on earth, and as the Perfecter of faith in His glory and on His throne in heaven, He transfuses and even infuses us with the faith that He has originated and perfected.

The saving faith is not of ourselves; it is the gift of God...Ephesians 2:8 tells us clearly that the faith through which we were saved is not of ourselves. We have received it as a gift from God. God is the source and Giver of faith, and we are the recipients of this divine gift. God has put something into our being that becomes our faith. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., pp. 538-540)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 2 Timothy*, msg. 7

<b>Wednesday 7/31</b>
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**Related Verses****1 Cor. 9:24-26**

24 Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold.

25 And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.

26 I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air;

**1 Cor. 9:27**

27 But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest perhaps having preached to others, I myself may become disapproved.

**1 Pet. 1:4**

4 Unto an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, kept in the heavens for you,

**1 Pet. 5:4**

4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

**Rev. 2:10**

10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**Rev. 3:11**

11 I come quickly; hold fast what you have that no one take your crown.

**Related Reading**

Because Paul's background was exactly that of the Hebrew believers, he was qualified to be an example in running the race. Galatians 2:2 and 1 Corinthians 9:26 and 27 show how he began to run the race. Philippians 3:5-8 and 12-14 show how he was still running the race...In 2 Timothy 4:7 and 8, written shortly before his martyrdom, he told us that he had finished the race.

***Finishing the Course***

As Paul was running the race, he said, “I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest perhaps having preached to others, I myself may become disapproved” (1 Cor. 9:27). Although a saved person can never perish, it is quite possible for him to become disapproved. To be disapproved is to fail in the race, missing the opportunity of reaching the goal...The Greek word rendered “disapproved” also means “a reprobate, one not qualified or approved.”...This concept fits in with that of reaching the goal and winning the prize as a reward. But there is the possibility that a runner may be disapproved and not be approved for the reward. In Hebrews 12 Paul was warning the Hebrew brothers and encouraging them, giving them a great incentive to run the race. We, like them, must not only walk the way but also run the race. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., pp. 552-553)

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Paul told the Hebrew believers to look “away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God” [Heb. 12:2]...In all his other Epistles Paul presents to us mainly the Christ who dwells in our spirit (Rom. 8:10; 2 Tim. 4:22) as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) to be our life and our everything. But in this book he points us particularly to the Christ who has sat down in heaven and who is of so many aspects, that He may care for us in every way...In this book the heavenly Christ is contrasted to the earthly religion and all earthly things. To experience the indwelling Christ, we need to turn to our spirit and contact Him. To enjoy the heavenly Christ, we need to look away from all things on earth unto Him, who has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. By His death and resurrection He accomplished everything that is needed by both God and man. Now in His ascension He is sitting in the heavens, in the person of the Son of God (Heb. 1:5) and the Son of Man (2:6), in the person of God (1:8) and man (2:6), as the appointed Heir of all things (1:2), the anointed One of God (v. 9), the Author of our salvation (2:10), the Sanctifier (v. 11), the constant Succor (v. 16), the instant Helper (4:16), the Apostle from God (3:1), the High Priest (2:17; 4:14; 7:26), the Minister of the true tabernacle (8:2) with a more excellent ministry (v. 6), the

surety and the Mediator of a better covenant (7:22; 8:6; 12:24), the Executor of the new testament (9:16-17), the Forerunner (6:20), the Author and Perfector of our faith (12:2), and the great Shepherd of the sheep (13:20). If we look unto Him as such a wonderful and all-inclusive One, He will minister heaven, life, and strength to us, transfusing and infusing us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race and live the heavenly life on earth. In this way He will carry us through all the lifelong pathway and lead and bring us into glory (2:10).

The wonderful Jesus, who is enthroned in heaven and crowned with glory and honor (v. 9), is the greatest attraction in the universe. He is like an immense magnet drawing all His seekers to Him. It is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him. Without such a charming object, how could we look away from so many distracting things on this earth? (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., pp. 550-552)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msgs. 45-46, 49-50

**Thursday 8/1**

**Related Verses**

**2 Cor. 4:13,18**

**13** And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

**18** Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

**2 Cor. 5:7**

**7** (For we walk by faith, not by appearance) --

**Eph. 2:8**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God;

**Rom. 8:24**

**24** For we were saved in hope. But a hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?

**Heb. 11:1, 27**

**1** Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**27** By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he persevered as one seeing the unseen One.

**Related Reading**

Anything that belongs to the Christian life is invisible. The degradation of the church is due to the fact that Christians have moved from the unseen things to the seen things...When we care for the living God by walking according to our mingled spirit (Rom. 8:4), both of which are unseen, we are being recovered to the normal Christian life and church life.

In order to regard the visible things, we do not need faith...To walk by faith means that we regard the invisible things. In the church life we are walking not by sight, by appearance, but by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). We know that we are saved through faith (Eph. 2:8). This faith causes us to experience the divine birth with the divine life. When we were regenerated, the divine life, something invisible to the natural senses, was imparted into us. As a result of this impartation of life, we became brothers and sisters in the Lord. Even though neither the divine birth nor the divine life can be seen, we have an ability within that is able to substantiate the divine life in one another. This substantiating ability that is able to sense the invisible divine life within us is faith (Heb. 11:1). (*CWWL, 1975-1976*, vol. 3, pp. 90-91)

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When we look unto Jesus, He transfuses us with Himself as the believing element, and He becomes our faith...Faith, the substantiating ability, is like a sixth sense. We acquired this substantiating sense through the preaching of the gospel. Proper gospel preaching is not merely a matter of teaching; it must also be a matter of transfusion. Suppose I am preaching the gospel to some sinners. Before I can preach the gospel to them, I must first receive something of and from the Lord. Then, as I am preaching, what I have received of the Lord will enter, like electricity, into those who are listening...Although they may shake their heads, not consenting to my preaching, deep within they believe

*Finishing the Course***Friday 8/2**

what I am saying. Although some may say to themselves that it is silly to believe, something within them continues to react and brings them to the point where they say, “Lord Jesus, thank You. You are so good. Lord, You are my Savior.” Because some element has been transfused into their being, they are able to believe in the Lord. I know of many stubborn ones who would not express in the meeting that they had come to believe in the Lord Jesus. They went home, but they had no peace, for something within stirred and troubled them. When it was time for the next gospel meeting, they said, “I would like to go there again.” This is the result of the transfusion of faith by God through a preacher.

Every gospel preacher must be a charming person...What he says may not seem logical, but, like a battery that is being charged, the hearers will be charmed. For this reason the church must pray a great deal for the preaching of the gospel. The more we pray, the more charming the gospel meeting will be. The gospel preacher must pray until he has a heavenly charm and is fully charged with the divine element...The gospel preacher may lack eloquence, but because he is so charming, others are charmed as they listen to him. Some element is infused into them through that charming preacher, and nothing can take it out of them. This infused element is faith.

This principle applies not only to the preaching of the gospel but to other forms of ministry as well...If your ministry is correct, you will be charmed and charming whenever you come to minister. The proper ministry is altogether a matter of being fully transfused with God Himself. First, we are charged with the divine element, and then, in the ministry, we radiate that divine element into others in a charming way. This is altogether a matter of God's grace. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., pp. 540-541)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1994-1997*, vol. 1, “Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans,” ch. 23

*Related Verses***1 Pet. 1:8**

8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

**2 Cor. 3:18**

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

**Matt. 25:23**

23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

**Gal. 2:20**

20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Phil. 3:12-14**

12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

*Related Reading*

The Greek word translated “Perfector” [Heb. 12:2] may also be rendered “Finisher” or “Completer.”...If we look to [Jesus] continually, He will finish and complete the faith that we need for the running of the heavenly race.

He will finish and complete what He has originated and inaugurated. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., p. 539)

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Sinners certainly need to have faith, but how can they have it? Naturally, we have no belief, only disbelief. But when the sinners come to the church and hear the proper preaching of the gospel, they are charged with God...Because God Himself is transfused into them in this way, they find that they have faith. This is the gift of faith, the nature and element of which is God Himself.

If we would have faith, we must look away unto Jesus, the source of faith...He will radiate Himself into us, charging us with Himself. As a result, spontaneously we will have faith. Faith does not originate with us; it originates with Him. Faith is Christ Himself believing for us in a very subjective way. He transfuses us with Himself, working Himself into us, until He, the very person, becomes the believing element in our being. Thus, it is not we who believe; it is He who believes within us. In this way He makes us a believing being. Apparently, it is our believing; actually, it is His believing. This is genuine faith.

Once Christ has originated this faith within us, He will never let it go. Rather, He will complete, finish, and perfect it. Do not think that you can be a giant of faith on your own. No, we do not have the slightest amount of faith. All the faith we have is just Christ Himself believing in us and for us. We live by His faith, by Him as our faith (Gal. 2:20).

Christ's believing element is charged into our being through the law of life. The more we allow the law of life to work in our being, the more we are able to believe. If we give the law of life the opportunity to work continuously in our mind, emotion, and will, its working will produce great faith in us.

As the law of life works within us to bring about the expression and testimony of God, the first issue of its working is our believing. The most believing person is the one in whom the law of life has worked the most. Such a person will have the faith to believe God to the uttermost without any strain or strife. His believing is spontaneous because it comes from the working of the law of life within him.

The law of life in Hebrews 8 issues in the believing ability, the faith, in Hebrews 11. Although we cannot

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understand this simply by reading the Bible, we can know it by our experience...According to life, Hebrews 11 is the issue of Hebrews 8, for the believing ability results from the working of the law of the divine life. When the law of life operates within us to make us the very reflection, expression, and testimony of God, we find it easy to believe. Our believing is spontaneous. In fact, we are unable to disbelieve, because the believing ability has been wrought into us...When we look away unto Him, [the Author and Perfecter of our faith], we give Him the opportunity and the freedom to work Himself into us. In this way the law of life can work in every inward part of our being until we are fully saturated with Him. The more we are saturated with Him, the easier it is to believe. This is the way to have faith. May we all experience faith in such a subjective way by looking away unto Jesus. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, 2nd ed., pp. 541-543)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1932-1949*, vol. 4, "Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 5," ch. 48

**Saturday 8/3**

Related VersesHeb. 12:3

3 For compare Him who has endured such contradiction by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary, fainting in your souls.

Acts 20:24

24 But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

Num. 32:6

6 And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brothers go to war, while you stay here?

Micah 7:8

8 Do not rejoice against me, O my enemy; When I fall, I will rise up; When I sit in the darkness, Jehovah will be a light to me.

Mark 6:45-51

45 And immediately He compelled His disciples to step into the boat and go before to the other side, toward Bethsaida, while He sent the crowd away.

46 And after He said farewell to them, He went away to the mountain to pray.

47 And when evening fell, the boat was in the midst of the sea and He was alone on the land.

Related Reading

Mark 6:45 says, "And immediately He compelled His disciples to step into the boat and go before to the other side, toward Bethsaida, while He sent the crowd away."...This verse tells us that every one of us has a journey ordained by Him. The word *compelled* here is the same as the word *constrains* used in 2 Corinthians 5:14. The Lord constrained the disciples to step into the boat...The most important thing in the Christian life is to seek out the journey which the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it...Some, even though they have found it, do not walk on it. This is the reason that their living is filled with so much spiritual death, gloom, and restriction, and this is the reason that there are so many conflicts and arguments in God's work. (*CWWN*, vol. 10, p. 424)

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The most important task for each of us is to put ourselves into God's hand in a quiet, patient, prayerful, consecrated, and obedient way and wholeheartedly seek after His leading. We should be willing to obey Him and act only in accordance with His will. We should pray that He reveal to us the journey He has designated for us. After this, we should pay any price to wholeheartedly walk on it.

"The boat was in the midst of the sea" [Mark 6:47]. We still have not reached the destination of our journey. Although the matter of eternal life is resolved for us and we have no more problem with that, whether or not our history on the earth will be one of faithfulness or failure (of faithfulness to the end or desertion halfway), is yet to be determined. The boat is still in the midst of the sea and has not arrived in port...We should not be overly self-assured and should not presume that our ending is

already determined. Of course, we are delighted to be on the right course, but how we run and end it is still a question.

There is something special in verse 48: the Lord "intended to pass by them."...It seems as if the Lord had no intention to go to the disciples. But if we consider what the Lord is doing today, we will not have any problem understanding this. Since the Lord had commanded His disciples to go to the other side to Bethsaida, He descended the mountain and went forward to Bethsaida. Could the Lord go to another place to wait for them? The Lord was looking for the disciples along the same path which He had commanded them to take. If they had turned at a corner, the Lord would not have met them when He came. If they had gone on a wrong course, the Lord would not have gone on a wrong pathway to wait for them. This is very sobering! I have always considered that if the Lord commanded me to go to Shanghai and I went instead to Nanking, I would miss the rapture when He comes. This is because the rapture takes place only along the pathway that the Lord has ordained. If you are not there, you will miss the rapture. Each one of us has to bear his own responsibility as to which way he should go.

The Lord has compelled us to go to the other side to Bethsaida. If, at this time, we are not faithful, we will never be faithful. Many of God's children have suffered for the Lord and have taken the lonely journey...Moses said unto the sons of Gad and sons of Reuben, "Shall your brothers go to the war while you stay here?" (Num. 32:6)...While others are faithful and suffering, can we sit still in peace? Surely there is hardship, but that is far better than drifting. Every one of us ought to faithfully serve the Lord, and every one ought to take the journey that He has ordained until we reach the other side. (*CWWN*, vol. 10, pp. 424-425, 429-430, 432-433)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 10, pp. 423-433

*Finishing the Course*

Lord's Day 8/4

Related Verses**John 20:19-29**

**19** When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and while the doors were shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, Peace be to you.

**20** And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced at seeing the Lord.

**21** Then Jesus said to them again, Peace be to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.

**22** And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

**23** Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them; and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained.

**24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

**25** The other disciples therefore said to him, We have seen the Lord! But he said to them, Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails and put my finger into the mark of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will by no means believe.

**26** And after eight days, His disciples were again within, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were shut, and stood in the midst and said, Peace be to you.

**27** Then He said to Thomas, Bring your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.

**28** Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!

**29** Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

**Hymn: #1206**

**1** There's a race for us to run—Hallelujah,  
And a way for us the race to win.  
To all those who have begun—Hallelujah,  
God has spoken, "Look away to Him!"

Look away! O look away!  
Look to Jesus now today!  
Look away from everything unto Jesus,  
Look away from everything to Him!

**2** Look away from all around—Hallelujah,  
Look away from all the strife and din;  
Look away where peace is found—Hallelujah,  
Look away from everything to Him.

**3** Look away from fickle soul—Hallelujah,  
Look away from failing self within;  
Look away toward the goal—Hallelujah,  
Look away from everything to Him.

**4** Look away from all the past—Hallelujah,  
Look away from both the good and sin;  
To the living One hold fast—Hallelujah,  
Look away from everything to Him.

**5** Look away into His face—Hallelujah,  
He who'll finish what He did begin.  
O what grace to run the race—Hallelujah—  
We obtain by looking off to Him!

**Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Hebrews****Level 1—Hebrews Sequential Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Heb. 9:1-5

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msg. 42

**Level 2—Hebrews Topical Study**

Crucial Point: Hope, Diligence, and Assurance until the End

Scripture: Heb. 3:6, 14; 6:11, 15; 10:36

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msg. 34

Supplemental Reading: *The Way for a Christian to Mature in Life*, chs. 16, 19, 21

Questions:

1. Why are diligence, assurance, and hope needed until the end?
2. According to Scripture, what are the things of which we must have assurance?
3. Explain how Heb. 6:13-18 fit in the context of the verses.
4. In Heb. 6:12, what does it mean to "inherit the promises?"