



# Hebrews

The Supremacy of Jesus

**God's Motive, Practice, Purpose, and End**

Lesson #11

Pastor Verlin D. Williams

Union Baptist Church

*November 16, 2022*



## The Race of Faith

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

*1 Therefore 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, 2 looking 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*

## ***The great cloud of witnesses –***

They are in company with others who suffered because of their faith. They believed what God had revealed to them concerning His promise, purpose and plan. They are guaranteed. They all lived with the hope of inheriting the promises of God. Rest, Promised Land, Canaan, Kingdom of Heaven.

## ***The weight –***

The weight of the burdens in life test our faith. Will you believe in Him? Will you trust Him? We want to know how and when the problems will be addressed. The weight of the burdens we encounter in life can be “laid aside”. Jesus said, “Come to me”. You can “cast all your cares on Him” 1 Peter 5:7. “Trust in Him with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5. “And you will find rest for your souls.”

***The sin which so easily ensnares us –***

This includes any people, places, things, thoughts, activities, and habits or practices that you know are not of God. Ensnare means to trap, to tangle you up, to slow your forward progress, to distract.

***Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith –***

It is important for us to understand that God in Christ is not only the creator and sustainer of our saving faith, but He is also the sustainer of our daily walk and the finisher of our spiritual journey. For if God in Christ is not the author of our new life, and if Christ is not the finisher and perfecter of our faith through the Holy Spirit's indwelling power, then we are neither born again nor are we a true follower of Christ.

## *The joy set before Him -*

Jesus was a person of faith.

- He believed that His death would redeem the elect of God.
- He believed that God would raise Him from the dead.
- He believed that the redeemed would become His “Bride”.
- He believed that He would be seated on the right hand of Majesty.
- He looks forward to a second coming and ultimate victory over Satan and creation of the new heaven and new earth.

## The Discipline of God

### **Hebrews 12:3-6**

*3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.’”*

How did God chasten Israel for their disobedience?

**Judges 2:1-5**

**2 Kings 18:12**

***God allows us*** to undergo trials and temptations so our faith will be tested, and we will grow in maturity as believers. Discipline is not merely corrective, but also involves training.

***1 Timothy 4:8***

***Titus 2:11-14***

Just as an athlete disciplines his or her body through physical training in order to prepare it for competition, God disciplines us by training our souls to make us holy and prepare us to be in His presence.

What does the chastening of God look like?

When we are being chastened, we may have feelings of conviction, experience difficult circumstances in our lives, or have decreased peace. These signs may be indicators that God is chastening us or that there is an area of life that needs to be addressed.

God's chastening is done as a method of purifying us and guiding us back to holiness. God is not a vindictive father punishing us for our past sins. Jesus took the punishment and condemnation for our sins on Himself; there remains no punishment for those who have put their faith in Jesus.

***Romans 5:9-11; 8:1***



*In summary,* God disciplines every one of His children.

- His motive is love.
- His practice is perfect.
- His purpose is our sanctification.
- His end is His glory.

May we learn not to despise His discipline, but to be encouraged by it.