*Monday, July 01, 2013*

**In**

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

Williams NT Translation for Hebrews 12:1-2

1. Therefore, as we have so vast a crowd of spectators in the grandstands, let us throw off every impediment and the sin that easily entangles our feet, and run with endurance the race, for which we are entered, 2. keeping our eyes on Jesus, the perfect leader and example of faith, who, for the joy which lay before Him, endured the cross with no regard for its shame, and since has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Strong’s definition for Patience - 5281 hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay'); From 5278; cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: KJV-- enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

So what kind of race did you get yourself into when you decided to enter the heavenly race for salvation? It is a race of endurance where you are not only required to start on course, but most importantly finish the race. Unlike races that take place here in this world, those that finish last are actually considered first in heaven. Those that try to run ahead of everyone else usually tire out and don’t last. You have a cheering section of saints that have gone before you, who have run this race and left their instructions in a book called the Bible to encourage you and show you how to run and not stop until you reach the winners circle.

Matthew 24:11-13 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (KJV)

It’s easy to begin a project; it’s exciting when dealing with something new. However, it’s those that finish what they started who are considered one of God’s chosen people; which according to His word are few and far between. The devil has many quick fixes and gimmicks on how to run this race just like the infomercials we see on how you can get healthy by just taking a pill. The reality is no pain, no gain when it comes to your walk in the Spirit because just like with long distance running, it takes endurance to finish.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. (KJV)

Many see those that are healthy and desire the same results, except when it’s time to get up before daylight and start running. Many see the highlight reels, but don’t know what is real when it comes time to walk in the Spirit by denying the flesh. Today the Lord is asking “are you in this for the long haul or are you going to drop out with the rest of the pretenders and wannabe’s?”

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.