

Run with Patience the Race

- *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, Heb. 12:1-2*
- What are the weights?
- What are the sins?
- How do we lay them aside?

Weights and Foolishness

- *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. Pr. 22:15*
- What is this foolishness?
- Selfishness
- Dominance
- Each individual a unique combination.

When I was a Child

- *“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” 1Cor. 13:11*
- What did Paul need to put away?
- What are the childish things that we needed or still need to remove?

The sins of my Youth

- *Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Ps. 25:7*
- *Flee also youthful lusts; 2Tim. 2:22*
- We can't set aside and remove what we are not even aware of.
- Do we know the sins of our youth and the propensities they have created within us?
- What were our youthful lusts?
- Have they now been removed?

Something Happened Back Then

- Paul never forgot!

- *I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.*

10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. 12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Rom 7:9-12

- Do we remember what they were?

Running from foolishness to Jesus

- *“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.” Heb. 12:1-2*
- We all began with a selfish self-centeredness where nothing mattered but us.
- Must broaden our horizons to see everyone as worthy of our sacrifices like Jesus.

Summing Up

- Every sin and temptation, every lust that originates in our flesh or in our eyes,
- All the pride of life we still contend with arises from this foolishness & selfishness.
- Temptations and enticements only arise when we see others as existing for our selfish use.
- Covetousness cannot exist when the needs / desires of others more important than our own.

Parents Helped but we must Finish

- This race is similar to a relay. We can help or hinder our children in their own race.
- But first we must find our own unique combination, which they too contend with.
- Dominance, bullying, tantrums, sneaking, lying, dishonesty, are all signs of foolishness.
- If we see them in our children we must help them to remove them or they will plague them their entire lives.

Foolishness in the Apostles

- *‘What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?’ But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.’ Mk. 9:33-35*
- Only in the foolish eyes of a child does any attribute we possess give us the right to subjugate others and force them to serve us.

Only in the Worldly Minded

- *“They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’” Mt. 23:6-7*
- Nothing has changed!
- In the schools, workplace, home, sports and politics
- The strong, smart, popular, wealthy etc.
- Use their gifts to dominate and use others.
- These are the sinful weights to be removed.

No place for this in the church

- *But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Matt 23:8-12*

A New Perspective

- We can't take credit for any of these things.
- They were gifts given at birth to serve God.
- *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1Pet. 4:10-11*

A New Perspective

- The were given by the grace of God.
- We should not think more highly about them
- *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Rom 12:3-4*

It Works Both Ways – Esteem or Pride

- *For in fact the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?*
- *20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 1Cor 12:14-17; 20-23*

When Weights are Laid Aside

- *that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 1Cor 12:25-26*

agape love – The Missing Ingredient

- *And yet I show you a more excellent way. 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 1Cor 12:31-13:3*