

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

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who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

—Hebrews 12:1-3 ESV

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“...overemphasizing the prayer has often (though unintentionally) obscured the primary instruments for laying hold of salvation: repentance and faith.”

—J.D. Greear

“The Christian life is not a sprint, it is a marathon.”

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“Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate.

Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim. In our kind of culture, anything, even news about

God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.” —Eugene Petersen

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I. Personal Discipleship Begins and is Sustained Through Surrender

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2. Personal Discipleship is Perpetually Christ-Centered

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²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself... ²⁶...He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself... ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God... ¹⁴For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

—Hebrews 7:27; 9:26b; 10:12,14 ESV

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“Our endurance is based on the finished work of Christ for us, not the example of others who have gone before us.”

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3. Personal Discipleship Values God's Loving Discipline

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For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

—Hebrews 12:11 ESV

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Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

—Revelation 1:7 ESV

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