

The Race That Is Set Before Us

- A. No matter who you are, there is still an opportunity to run the race God is calling you to run.
- B. Our goal for today? To make sure that we're a part of the race and that we're avoiding those things which could lead to "disqualification" (1 Cor 9:27).

I. **"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." (Heb 12:1a)**

- A. These are so much more than idle "watchers," simply sitting in the stands and observing us run.
 - 1. They are witnesses of _____!
 - 2. They continue to inspire us to run the race that is before us.
- B. Imagine the King of kings making his entrance into this awe-inspiring spiritual colosseum.
- C. He sees your potential, but he has two questions:
 - 1. "Are you willing to run as a person of _____?" (Heb 11:1-2, 6)
 - 2. "Are you willing to lay aside every _____ and _____?" (Heb 12:1)

II. **"Let us also lay aside every weight" (Heb 12:1b)**

- A. A winning runner doesn't always choose between the good and bad, but the better and the best.
- B. Weighing me down? Diverting my attention? Sapping my energy? Dampening my enthusiasm?

III. **"Let us also lay aside every sin which clings so closely" (Heb 12:1c)**

- A. There are some who are unwilling or unable to enter this spiritual colosseum.
 - 1. The "_____ " party-goers (1 Cor 6:9-10).
 - 2. The "too-many-_____ " venter (1 Cor 9:24).
 - 3. The "it's-just-as-good-_____ " tailgaters (Phil 3:12-14).
 - 4. The "make-up-my-own-_____ " innovator (2 Tim 2:5; 2 Tim 4:7).
 - 5. The "I've-got-enough-_____ -to-make-it" procrastinator (1 Cor 9:25-27).
 - 6. The "I'll-sneak-in-without-a-_____ " guy (John 10:1).
 - 7. The "I'm-afraid-to-wear-the-_____ " coward (John 12:42).
 - 8. The "fair-_____ " follower (Matt 7:21).
 - 9. The "I-can't-bear-to-leave-my-_____ -behind" packrat (Matt 7:13-14).

- B. **"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (Heb 12:1-2).**