

## **“Running with Endurance”**

Hebrews 12:1-2

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1. The ancient Olympic games were played in Olympia, Greece (776 BC to 393 AD. ca. Isaiah → Augustine).**

- Originally only one event: a foot race called the “stade” (→ ‘stadium’). 192 meters

#### **2. The NT makes several references to the athletic competitions of the Greeks.**

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27: Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- 2 Timothy 2:5: An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

#### **3. Hebrews appeals to those believers who have gone before us. Hebrews 12:1**

- We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Ref. Chapter 11  
-A WITNESS was called to confirm and testify to the truth of a matter.
- Consider their example...

### **RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE**

#### **1. Constantly returning to the Word of God.**

- The word of God is our ‘map’ for life, our ‘anchor’ to keep us steady in the storms.
- Andrew Peterson song “You’ll Find Your Way”  
*“Go back, go back to the ancient paths. Lash your heart to the ancient mast. And hold on, boy, whatever you do to the hope that has taken hold of you.”*

#### **2. Spiritual growth through disciplines.**

- Discipline = training that corrects, shapes, improves the physical body or moral character
- Philippians 3:12-15: Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
- *Abide in Christ* by Andrew Murray (1828-1917) based on Jesus’ words in John 15.
- Lay aside every weight. Analogy of clothing—both for sin and for obedience. Ref. Colossians 3:8-17
- And “let us run” = Keep going. “let us continue to run” or “let us keep on running”  
-Endure = to remain under the pressure; to patiently bear the weight, to hold out, to hold on

#### **3. The teammates you join. I.e., The company you keep.**

- Proverbs 13:20: Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- Proverbs 27:17: Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.
- Proverbs 22:24-25: Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, <sup>25</sup>lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.
- 1 Corinthians 15:33: Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

#### **The model—Jesus Christ—the founder and perfecter of our faith.**

-for the JOY set before Him

-ENDURED the cross... Hebrews 12:2