

# Questions for a Serious Race

People ask different questions in peace time & wartime

## Peace time questions:

*What can I do to be more comfortable?  
to have more fun?  
to avoid trouble & pain?*

## Wartime questions:

- *What can I do to advance the cause?*
- *What can I do to bring the victory?*
- *What sacrifice can I make or what risk can I take to insure the  
joy of triumph*

To boast in Christ...to live with your eyes fixed on Him...is to die to the world's peace time mentality & all of life is lived asking different  
?????

## When We Stop Asking Wartime Questions

The people to whom the author of Hebrews is writing are losing their wartime mentality...starting to drift through life asking peace time questions.

**Hebrews 2:1** We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we **do not drift away**.

**Hebrews 3:12-13** **Take care**, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

**Hebrews 5:12** In fact, though **by this time** you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

**Hebrews 12:3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will **not grow weary and lose heart**.

## Focusing Your Sight...Running Your Race

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and **let us run** with perseverance **the race** marked out for us. **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus....Hebrews 12:1-2**

Let your mind's eye be captivated by Jesus...why He died and what He accomplished.....then you won't meander but will run your race

### Plan your run with Jesus

*Throw off everything that hinders...set aside every encumbrance*

-Things that in themselves may not be sins BUT that get in the way of treasuring Christ and advancing His cause and glory

# Focusing Your Sight...Running Your Race

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Peace time running....What's wrong with \_\_\_\_\_ ?

## Wartime running

- How can I portray God as glorious in this choice?
- How can I enjoy making much of Him in this behavior?
- Is what I'm choosing paving the way to greater faith, greater love, greater purity, greater humility, greater patience, greater joy

# Focusing Your Sight...Running Your Race

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- Things that in themselves may not be sins BUT that get in the way of treasuring Christ and advancing His cause and glory

## Wartime running

**When you think this way about throwing aside every hindrance, it changes the categories for living your life**

Instead of asking,

*what's wrong with* my movies, my music, my parties, my habits?

Ask, **does it help me** run the race of bringing glory to God in a life of joy, sacrifice and love for those who are needy, hurting, hungry, lost?

# GRACE Motivation to Run Your Race

## The Cloud of Witnesses

### Jesus Creates & Perfects Your Faith

## The Joy Set Before You (12:3)

### What was Jesus' joy?

Joy of glorifying his Father through his sacrificial love at the cross

*°The most wondrous thing about the gospel is what it reveals about the love of the heavenly Father for His Son and the love of the Son for his Father. The gospel reveals a divine Son who knows his Father's holy love for a rebellious and perishing world and is zealous that all the cosmos should know and sing his Father's glory. And so he comes to us according to the Father's plan and for the joy.*

**Why did Jesus die?....so that you may delight in the person of God and enjoy bringing him glory**

# GRACE Motivation to Run Your Race

## The Cloud of Witnesses

### Jesus Creates & Perfects Your Faith

#### The Joy Set Before You (12:3)

Jesus does everything to rescue you for True joy...

...a race run for the glory of God in Christ

Running your race is never to prove anything to God, yourself,

others. Rather, keeping Jesus & His grace in your mind's eye

- *His forgiveness for your falling back into a peace time mentality*
- *His power which is always at work in you*
- *His promises which are always ;°YES!;± because He is for you*
- *His delight in the Father;`s glory*

**You run for the joy of glorifying God**

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