

Hebrews 12:1-2 Grace to Endure, Strength to Finish  
Calvary Chapel Titusville 6/21/26  
Pastor Paul Andris

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, 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, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV)*

***The Christian race is not won by accidental effort, but by intentional surrender.***

*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4 NKJV)*

***The saints of old are not trophies of human strength; they are testimonies of divine grace.***

Paul teaches that not all things are helpful.

*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. (1 Corinthians 6:12 NKJV)*

The race requires discernment.

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every [branch] that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:1-2 NKJV)*

***If it weakens devotion, it is weight—even if the world calls it harmless.***

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15 NKJV)*

This is how sin works: It deceives before it enslaves.

*if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (Ephesians 4:21-22 NKJV)*

Sin promises freedom and delivers bondage.

*Confess [your] trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16 NKJV)*

***Sin never merely sits beside the runner; it reaches for the feet.***

Endurance means steadfast perseverance under pressure.

*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4 NKJV)*

Paul says:

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain [it]. And everyone who competes [for the prize] is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a perishable crown, but we [for] an imperishable [crown]. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as [one who] beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV)*

***Endurance is not the triumph of human grit; it is the long obedience of faith.***

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV)*

That is the hope of the believer.

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The Christian life begins by grace and continues by grace.

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (Colossians 2:6 NKJV)*

***The soul runs strongest when the eyes rest most fully on Jesus.***

***What Jesus authors, Jesus finishes.***

Jesus also "endured the cross."

*He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You [will]." (Matthew 26:39 NKJV)*

***The cross proves that the hardest road can still be the holiest road when walked in obedience to the Father.***

Jesus "has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

*and what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated [Him] at His right hand in the heavenly [places], (Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV) as His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (2 Peter 1:3 NKJV)*

***The race is hard, but the throne is occupied.***