

A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

Lesson Six: A Season to Press On – Hebrews 12:1 - 3

INTRODUCTION

- Christmas is over...As the days speed on toward December 31, and the beginning of a new year, many people begin to consider changes that they want to make in their lives.
- All too often this “New Year, New You” attitude is not long lasting.
- We are unsure where to start, how to maintain progress, how to keep focused, and we end up just giving up.
- Throughout the Bible God uses illustrations to help us understand the nature of the Christian life: *2 Timothy 3:3; 1 Corinthians 9:26.*
- If we plan on doing anything for the Lord with our lives in the coming year, we too must lace up and get on the track and in the race.
- If we want to make the best of these moments we must first take time to prepare, so that we know what to expect.

I. The _____ for the Race: *Verse 1*

A. Remove the _____: *Ephesians 4:22; Ephesians 4:23.*

B. Repent from _____: *Psalms 18:23.*

II. The _____ of the Race.

A. It is a _____ pace: *Hebrews 12:1b.*

1. Our _____ is set: *2 Corinthians 10:12; 1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27.*

2. Our _____ completion is set: *James 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:6 – 8.*

B. It's a _____ pace: *James 1:2 – 3; James 5:8.*

III. The _____ of our Race: Verse 2.

**A. We're pursuing a _____: *Philippians 3:10;*
*Hebrews 13:8.***

1. He endured the _____: *James 1:12.*

2. He endured the _____: *Psalm 69:20*

**B. We're pursuing a _____: *Hebrews 12:3;*
*1 Peter 2:21-23; 1 Corinthians 15:58.***

CONCLUSION:

- **What are your goals for the New Year?**
- **A Christian who is faithful to read and to study God's Word and to serve Him better in whatever capacity He has called you?**
- **Write out your personal goals and share them with someone who can keep you accountable.**
- **Refuse to be content just floating through life in the New Year.**
- **Prepare now for the challenges and keep going for God.**
- **Realize that nothing we do for Him is in vain.**
- **When we reach the end of our race and see Him face to face, we'll realize everything we've done and everything we've endured for Him was worth it all.**

“Nativity Characters: Simeon and Anna”

Text: Luke 2:21 – 40

Sunday, December 27, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

Introduction: Seeing “The Nativity” scene depicted, it normally includes “the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds (the first visitors) and three Wise Men (they were not actually at the birthplace and it is not known if there were only three, the Bible list three types of gifts brought to the Baby Jesus,).

Speaking of the Nativity Characters, there are two people sometimes mentioned, yet they were like the Wise Men. They came into the story 8 days after the birth but probably months before the Wise Men came to worship Him. From these two special people we can learn some great lessons for life.

In the context of this text passage these two characters were “waiting on the Lord.” Note two main points on this matter:

I. Waiting on the Lord has its Requirements.

How are we to wait?

- A. **Live** for Jesus while you wait (vs. 25b).
- B. **Look** for Jesus while you wait (vs. 25c-26, 38).
- C. **Listen** for the Holy Spirit to Speak (vs. 25c, 26).
- D. Be **Led** by the Spirit (vs. 27a).
- E. **Lift** Up the Lord (vs. 28 – 32).
- F. **Lock** into Serving God (vs. 37).

II. Waiting on the Lord has its Rewards (Vss. 28-32)

There is the three-fold reward of the Lord’s...
presence, power, and peace.

Conclusion: Meeting the Lord’s Requirements for Waiting on Him will produce the Lord’s Rewards of His Presence, Power and Peace. Are you willing to meet the requirements of waiting on the Lord in order to receive the His rewards?

If so, it begins with living for Jesus while you wait.

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“Miracles Greater Than Any on 34th Street”

Christmas Classics (part 3)

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, December 27, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Introduction: In previous sermons during this Christmas season we have used thoughts from some of Christmas “classic” movies or TV films to turn attention to the Scripture and the truth and true meaning of Christmas.

“Miracle on 34th Street” a movie made in 1947 to place in NYC during the Christmas season. It focused on the impact a department store Santa Claus that claimed to be the real Santa. In the movie some miraculous things happened.

The foundation of the Christmas message is all about miracles! Note the following miracles of Christmas:

I. The Miracle of the Conception (Vss. 18, 20, 23).

(Luke 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 7:14)

II. The Miracle of the Incarnation (Vss. 21-23).

(John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; I John 1:1)

III. The Miracle of the Perfection (Vs. 21).

(II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:22-24; I John 3:5)

IV. The Miracle of the Indwelling (Vs. 23).

(Isaiah 7:14; John 14:16-18; Revelation 3:20)

Conclusion: Have you known married couples having the blessing of giving birth to a child and saying “this child will not change our lifestyle?” It just does not happen.

The Baby of Christmas changed the world – one life at a time!

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