

Running the Gauntlet of Sin

Scripture

“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,” (Hebrews 12:1 NKJV)

Commentary

All sin is a departure from faith. One sins when he/she yields to the flesh by putting more importance upon desires than his/her trust in God. This passage talks about the sin which so easily ensnares. Some people find it a strange thing for a believer to struggle with sin, but clearly sin is an ever present temptation.

That temptation is so strong that the writer of Hebrews says it easily ensnares. This means that a believer must be vigilant in his/her walk. The best way to do that, according to Hebrews is for the believer to keep his/her eyes fixed upon Jesus. “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 12:2 NKJV)

Note that it is He who is the author and, more importantly for this discussion, finisher of faith. This means one must continue to trust in Jesus to the end. Endurance is required.

The Christian life is a marathon. Even if one has never run a marathon, he/she knows well the torture of running a 26 mile track by watching runners drop out exhausted and mentally defeated. In fact, those who run these races all talk about the wall. This is a physical and mental wall that the runner must push through if he/she hopes to finish the race.

Believers may find many walls they need to push through, and push through he/she must do. Recognizing the wall Jesus had to push through will help. He faced the cross, a shameful death designed for criminals. However, He now sits at the right hand of God.

Believers will someday be in the presence of God if they push through this life by faith. One should not doubt the future, but look to Jesus whenever tempted to violate one's conscience. Remember, “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (Hebrews 10:26 NKJV).