

***“The Shield of Faith:
Part VI”***

Eph 6:10-20 & Heb 12:1-2

August 30, 2009

Hebrews 12:1-2

“¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

“Since-Then” in Heb 12:1-2

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses then...

1. Lay aside every weight and sin,
2. Run with endurance the race set before you,
3. Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of your faith.

The “Since” Clause

1. The phrase “great cloud of witnesses” should not be read “cloud of great witnesses.”
2. The focus of the “cloud” is not themselves but God which is why they’re called witnesses.
3. The word “great” actually means “enormous.”

1 Peter 5:8-10

“⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

The “Since” Clause

1. The phrase “great cloud of witnesses” should not be read “cloud of great witnesses.”
2. The focus of the “cloud” is not themselves but God which is why they’re called witnesses.
3. The word “great” actually means “enormous.”
4. The witnesses are fixated on Jesus Christ not us.

Then...“Let us Lay Aside”

1. “Lay aside” refers to taking things off one’s body.
2. Weights are things that are not bad or evil but must be put away if we’re to progress with Christ.

Not every good thing has to be laid aside by every Christian but some good things have to be laid aside by every Christian.

Then...“Let us Lay Aside”

1. “Lay aside” refers to taking things off one’s body.
2. “Weights” are things that are not bad or evil but must be put away if we’re to progress with Christ.
3. “Sins” are things which are not good and can’t be tolerated.

Hebrews 3:12-15

“¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’”

Hebrews 10:23-27

“²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”

Then...“Let us Run”

1. “Endurance” means “to remain under” and therefore to run and keep on running.
2. We’re to run the race that God has set before us which is revealed in his Word.

Then...“Look to Jesus”

1. “Looking” literally means “to look away from all else” or “to look with undivided attention” or “to fix one’s eyes.”
2. Thus, we’re to fix our eyes, not on the cloud or the race or the finish line or the prize, but on Jesus Christ himself, the founder and perfecter of our faith.