

The Great Commission

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 12:1-6.

II. Hindrances to the race.

A. Sin is the cause of all men's problems. (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

B. Excess baggage. Running a race takes patience and perseverance. (Hebrews 6:15)

III. Solutions to these hindrances.

A. To cure the weights we must look to Jesus. (Hebrews 11:27)

B. God has our best interest in heart and breaks our chains sometimes through discipline. (Leviticus 26:13; Ephesians 4:23; Psalm 119:164; Romans 8:29)

1. He disciplines by allowing us to face the consequences for sin.

2. He disciplines by letting us get caught in our sin.

C. How we respond to God's loving discipline makes all the difference.

1. There are many wrong responses including self-pity that is rooted in bitterness. Bitterness is too expensive to afford. (Proverbs 14:30; Hebrews 12:15)

2. We are to be thankful.

D. Suggestions.

1. Encourage those who are here to spare. (Proverbs 12:25)

2. Think right. (Philippians 4:8)

3. Live in peace with all.

E. The world sees problems but we are to see Jesus.

IV. The ultimate results of the race.

Application questions:

1. What are some areas you could call baggage in your own life?

2. Why must we continually remind ourselves that God has our best interest at heart?

3. How has God helped to shape you through discipline? What did you learn?
