

“Running in the Human Race”

Based on Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

May 26, 2019

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Memorial Sunday

Hebrews 12:1a - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,

† The setting here is a great stadium of spiritual athletes.

† This “cloud of witnesses” refers to the people lifted up in the preceding chapter of Hebrews (Ch. 11).

† Joining these “cloud of witnesses” are others who have run the race of life and completed it faithfully, some of whom I have known.

† I am now running in the human race.

Hebrews 12:1b - let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,

† The original Greek word used here for “hinders” means bulk or excess weight.

† I am to discard those things that weigh me down in my life.

Hebrews 12:1c - and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

† God has a plan for me.

† God has created me at this time in history to be in the human race.

† I am to “run with perseverance”. It does not say “run with speed.”

Hebrews 12:2-3

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

† I am to fix my eyes on Christ for looking away leads to distractions and I will stumble, I will fall away from the course God has set for me.

† If I focus on myself, I will fall. If I focus on Christ, I will succeed.

† Success is not coming in first in the race, it is in finishing the human race with faith.

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† Who has inspired me in my “human race”?

† What is weighing me down in life that I need to discard?

† Who are those who are in my “cloud of witnesses”?

† What distracts me from keeping my eyes, and life, fixed on Jesus?

- What am I, with God’s help, going to do about it?

† What is one way I can better fix my eyes on Jesus this week?