

**A Better Way  
A Better Race To Run  
Hebrews 12.1-3**

**Hebrews is the book of the Better Way**, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**
  - Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
  - Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
  - Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

*John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

*Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

- **Our Better “So Great A Salvation”** (2.3)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **A Better Anchor of the Soul (Heb 6)**
- **A Better Blood (Heb 9)**
- **A Better Presence (Heb 10.19-22)**
- **A Better Faith (Heb 11.1)**

**Today we discover our Better Race**

**Read Text – Heb 12.1-3**

The flag goes down the very moment we are saved, and from that glorious moment forward, until the flag falls at the finish of the journey, **we are in The Christian Race.**

## I. THE CONTEST AND THE RULES

*Hebrews 12:1–2 - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, **and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,** <sup>2</sup>**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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

1 Pet 2.9

After our Salvation we are,

- A. Called by the Father
- B. Commissioned by the Lord
- C. Committed by the Holy Spirit

*1 Peter 2:9–12 - **But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:** <sup>10</sup>Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. <sup>11</sup>Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; <sup>12</sup>Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, **glorify God in the day of visitation.***

1 Cor 9.24

## II. THE CONTENDERS IN THE RACE

*1 Corinthians 9:24 - Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.***

- A. Cloud of Heavenly Witnesses looking on.

*Hebrews 12:1 - **Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses,** let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

- B. Crowd of earthly watchers expecting our best.

**Hebrews 12:1** - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,** and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

C. Cross of Christ always before us as our vision.

**Hebrews 12:2** - **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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Cor 9.25

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I. The Contest and the Rules  
II . The Contenders In The Race  
A. The Cloud Witnesses  
B. The Crowd  
C. The Cross

### III. THE CHALLENGE OF THE RULES

**1 Corinthians 9:25–27** - And every man that striveth for the mastery **is temperate in all things.** Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. <sup>26</sup>I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: <sup>27</sup>But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

**2 Timothy 2:1–5** - Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. <sup>5</sup>**And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.**

A. Outlined by the Savior

**John 14:15** - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

**Matthew 28:18–20** - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

B. Ordered by the Scriptures.

**Psalm 119:9** - BETH. *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

**Psalm 119:105** - NUN. *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Gal 5.6

C. Opposed by the forces of Satan.

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**III. The Challenge of the Rules**

- A. Outlined by the Savior
- B. Ordered by the Scriptures

**Galatians 5:6–7** - *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. <sup>7</sup>Ye did run well; **who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?***

**1 Peter 5:8–9** - *Be sober, be vigilant; **because your adversary the devil,** as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: <sup>9</sup>Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

2 Tim 4.7

#### IV. THE COURSE TO BE RUN

**2 Timothy 4:7** - *I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course,** I have kept the faith:*

A. The padded path—a straight course.

**Matthew 7:14** - *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

B. The proven promises—strength to every Christian.

C. The pleasant people—servants of Christ. Christians ought to admonish other Christians to endure in this Spiritual Race and to stay the course and finish the race with honor.

## V. THE CROWN OF REWARDS

*2 Timothy 2:5 - And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*

A. Presented by the Lord.

*2 Timothy 4:8 - Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

There are Five Crown that will be awarded by our Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ,

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A. Outlined by the Savior  
B. Ordered by the Scriptures  
C. Opposed by Satan  
**IV. The Course to be Run  
V. The Crown of Rewards**

- 1. The Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim 4.8)** – For Loving the Appearing of our Lord, Awarded for Purifying ones life (1 John 3.1-3)
- 2. The Incorruptible Crown (1 Cor 9.25-27)** – Mastering this Christian Life.
- 3. The Crown of Life (Rev 2.10)** – The Martyr’s Crown
- 4. The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thess 2.19-20)** – The Soul Winners Crown
- 5. The Crown of Glory (1 Pet 5.2-4)** – The Discipler's Crown

B. People that have been faithful.

There are seven Privileges that Will be awarded by our Lord to the Overcomers as outlined in Revelation chapter 2-3. All awarded for Overcoming the deceptions, lies, and apathy of this worldly generation.

One of which is for overcoming in this worlds tendency to manipulate and mutilate the Word of God.

C. Price is total and full surrender.

**Matthew 16:24–27** - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. <sup>26</sup>For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; **and then he shall reward every man** according to his works.

## **Christian you are in a Spiritual Race in this corporal world,**

- Will you Run in this race?
- Will you learn the Rules of this Race? Will you run lawfully? It is the only way to win in this race.
- Will you endure in this race and finish the course?

**Everyone can enter this race by becoming a part of the Family of God,** a Citizen of Heaven. Then the rewards of faithfully running this race can be yours as well.

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