
DEFINED

A Real Man Betters
God's World



BETTERMAN



SESSION 5

*A Real Man Betters God's World:
How He Concludes*



BETTERMAN

1 Finish Your Race

1

Finish Your Race

A. Every born-again man starts his spiritual life with measurable handicaps and magnificent spiritual resources available to him, which is helpful because every day is a battle.

- As you age, you must fight against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. The fight never ends this side of heaven.

1

Finish Your Race

A. Every born-again man starts his spiritual life with measurable handicaps and magnificent spiritual resources available to him, which is helpful because every day is a battle.

- As you age, you must fight against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. The fight never ends this side of heaven.

B. What does the author mean by run the race?

- The race is a metaphor for the life of faith. We are all in the race of the spiritual life.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Who sets my race before me? God. You don't define it. God defines it.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Who sets my race before me? God. You don't define it. God defines it.
- The race is difficult The Greek term for race is ἀγῶνα (“agōna”), meaning agony. The race is something we often agonize in.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Who sets my race before me? God. You don't define it. God defines it.
- The race is difficult The Greek term for race is ἀγῶνα (“agōna”), meaning agony. The race is something we often agonize in.

C. We are to run the race “with endurance.”

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Who sets my race before me? God. You don't define it. God defines it.
- The race is difficult The Greek term for race is ἀγῶνα (“agōna”), meaning agony. The race is something we often agonize in.

C. We are to run the race “with endurance.”

- Endurance is what you build up through struggles and trials that test your faith.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?
 1. Personal sin.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?
 1. Personal sin.
 2. Disillusionment with the Church.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?
 1. Personal sin.
 2. Disillusionment with the Church.
 3. Discouragement with suffering (yours or someone else's).

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?
 1. Personal sin.
 2. Disillusionment with the Church.
 3. Discouragement with suffering (yours or someone else's).
 4. Love of the world.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?
 1. Personal sin.
 2. Disillusionment with the Church.
 3. Discouragement with suffering (yours or someone else's).
 4. Love of the world.
 5. Wealth that breeds arrogance or misplaced hope.

1

Finish Your Race *Continued...*

- Why do people stop running?
 1. Personal sin.
 2. Disillusionment with the Church.
 3. Discouragement with suffering (yours or someone else's).
 4. Love of the world.
 5. Wealth that breeds arrogance or misplaced hope.

D. How do you keep from losing heart and withdrawing from the race? How do you finish strong? The author of Hebrews gives three keys to finishing strong...

2 Listen Intently

2 Listen Intently

A. The first key to persevering in the Christian life is to give attention to the witnesses of the race.

2 Listen Intently

- A. The first key to persevering in the Christian life is to give attention to the witnesses of the race.
- B. Who are the “witnesses?”

2 Listen Intently

A. The first key to persevering in the Christian life is to give attention to the witnesses of the race.

B. Who are the “witnesses?”

- To witness [in this sense] is to speak about something; it means to testify.

2

Listen Intently *Continued...*

C. This means you must listen to and consider the testimonies in Scripture—men and women who, through faith, persevered in serving the Lord.

- The first key to finishing strong is to listen to God in His Word. Listen to His inspired Scripture.

3 Lay Aside

3 Lay Aside

A. The second key to finishing strong is to lay aside...

3 Lay Aside

A. The second key to finishing strong is to lay aside...

- Every weight is anything that might hold you down spiritually. This can include:

3 Lay Aside

A. The second key to finishing strong is to lay aside...

- Every weight is anything that might hold you down spiritually. This can include:

1. Relationships that cause you to sin.

3 Lay Aside

A. The second key to finishing strong is to lay aside...

- Every weight is anything that might hold you down spiritually. This can include:
 1. Relationships that cause you to sin.
 2. Activities that can cause you to sin.

3 Lay Aside

A. The second key to finishing strong is to lay aside...

- Every weight is anything that might hold you down spiritually. This can include:
 1. Relationships that cause you to sin.
 2. Activities that can cause you to sin.
 3. Places that can lead you into sin.

3 Lay Aside

A. The second key to finishing strong is to lay aside...

- Every weight is anything that might hold you down spiritually. This can include:

1. Relationships that cause you to sin.
2. Activities that can cause you to sin.
3. Places that can lead you into sin.

B. "*Sin that so easily entangles*" means to put away all sin that entangles and trips us up.

- This is a call to live a life of repentance.

3

Lay Aside *Continued...*

- Repentance is not limited to one's conversion experience. It is not a one-and-done kind of thing. It is a **lifestyle**.

3

Lay Aside *Continued...*

- Repentance is not limited to one's conversion experience. It is not a one-and-done kind of thing. It is a lifestyle.
- Repentance is the measure of maturity in a believer—an indication that he truly understands God and himself.

4 Look Up

4 Look Up

A. The third key to persevering in the Christian life is to look to and focus on Jesus.

4 Look Up

A. The third key to persevering in the Christian life is to look to and focus on Jesus.

- This is a call to look to Jesus with the eye of faith—to set your mind on Christ.

4 Look Up

A. The third key to persevering in the Christian life is to look to and focus on Jesus.

- This is a call to look to Jesus with the eye of faith—to set your mind on Christ.
- This is a call to ask Jesus to help you persevere in the faith. Jesus authored your faith. It is His work (and pleasure) to mature your faith.

4 Look Up

A. The third key to persevering in the Christian life is to look to and focus on Jesus.

- This is a call to look to Jesus with the eye of faith—to set your mind on Christ.
- This is a call to ask Jesus to help you persevere in the faith. Jesus authored your faith. It is His work (and pleasure) to mature your faith.

B. You focus on Jesus by:

1. Looking to the Person of Christ.

4

Look Up

Continued...

- A constant view of the glory of Christ will revive our souls and cause our spiritual lives to flourish and thrive.

4

Look Up

Continued...

- A constant view of the glory of Christ will revive our souls and cause our spiritual lives to flourish and thrive.
2. Look at the perseverance of Christ.

4

Look Up

Continued...

- A constant view of the glory of Christ will revive our souls and cause our spiritual lives to flourish and thrive.
- 2. Look at the perseverance of Christ.
- 3. Look at the perspective of Christ, “Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).

4

Look Up *Continued...*

- A constant view of the glory of Christ will revive our souls and cause our spiritual lives to flourish and thrive.
- 2. Look at the perseverance of Christ.
- 3. Look at the perspective of Christ, “Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).
- What joy? Future joy! Jesus’s sacrifice was a present sacrifice for future glory.

4

Look Up *Continued...*

- A constant view of the glory of Christ will revive our souls and cause our spiritual lives to flourish and thrive.

2. Look at the perseverance of Christ.

3. Look at the perspective of Christ, “Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).

- What joy? Future joy! Jesus’s sacrifice was a present sacrifice for future glory.

C. God has set a race to run before you. Run it with endurance.

Finish the race.

4

Look Up

Continued...

- Do not return to the worldly pattern you formerly walked in. Instead, finish strong by:

4

Look Up

Continued...

- Do not return to the worldly pattern you formerly walked in. Instead, finish strong by:
 1. Listening to the testimonies of the Old and New Testament saints. Their races have much in common with yours. They persevered in faith. Read their stories in the Word of God! Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of Christ.

4

Look Up *Continued...*

- Do not return to the worldly pattern you formerly walked in. Instead, finish strong by:
 1. Listening to the testimonies of the Old and New Testament saints. Their races have much in common with yours. They persevered in faith. Read their stories in the Word of God! Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of Christ.
 2. Laying aside the sin that entangles our lives. Sin trips us up, weakens us spiritually, and discourages us, making it much harder to continue running the race of the Christian life.

4

Look Up *Continued...*

- 3. Looking to Christ.** Look to His person—His virtue, His power, His grace and truth, His mercy and love, and His faithfulness. Look at His perseverance in the face of hostility and violent persecution. Look at His perspective—He endured it all for future joy—the joy of pardoning, possessing, and sanctifying a people.



BETTERMAN