

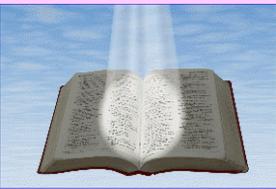
Beholding the Lord through His Word – Part 4



Jim McGowan, Th.D.
Sugar Land Bible Church
08-06-2017.

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Beholding the Lord through His word



Seeing
the Living Word of God
in the written word of God

Beholding the Lord through His word

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB95)
“But we all... beholding... the glory of the Lord”
John 1:14 (NASB95)
“we saw His glory...full of grace and truth” (cf. 1:1-18)



Seeing
the Living Word of God
in the written word of God

Beholding the Lord through His word



1 John 1:1-4 (NASB95)
 "we have seen with our eyes...the Word of Life"

Hebrews 12:2 (NASB95)
 "fixing our eyes on Jesus" (cf. 12:1-2)



**Seeing
the Living Word of God
in the written word of God**

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB95)

¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Outline

- I. Preliminary Comments
 - A. The Book of Hebrews is Special
 - 1. Historical Background Information
 - 2. Functioning Temple in Jerusalem
 - 3. Backdrop of Athletic Competition
 - B. Chiasitic Pattern
- II. Exposition
- III. Conclusion

Outline

I. Preliminary Comments

A. The Book of Hebrews is Special

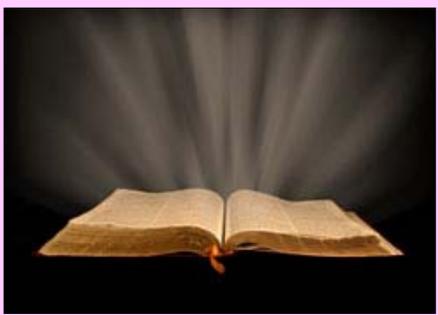
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Hebrews is a very special book!



Hebrews is a very special book!

- Hebrews was written to **Jews**, at a time when the sacrificial system in Jerusalem was still ongoing.





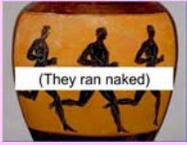



Hebrews is a very special book!

- Many **Jews who had become believers in Christ** were being tempted to drift back under Judaism.



Hebrews is a very special book!

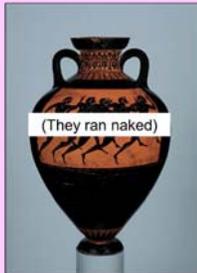


- Hebrews has a 'full cargo' of nautical terms, and also makes *active* use of athletic terms, **including the ones used in today's passage: 'and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...'**



Keep your eyes on the goal

- Hebrews 12:1-2 was written against a background of **athletic competition, specifically running.**



Keep your eyes on the goal

- The Olympics began in 776 BC, & later on even involved a number of Jews, in varying degrees.



(They wrestled naked)





THE MILITARY PROGRESSION & EMPIRE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT



This exposed the Jews to Greek culture, including athletics.

Keep your eyes on the goal

- In 12 BC Herod the Great, ruler of Israel, provided substantial financial support for the Olympics, paid for by taxing Jews.





Keep your eyes on the goal



• Hebrews was written to **Jews** living in the Gentile lands, where athletics was *priority*.

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Jesus, the center of Hebrews 12:1-2

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Jesus,

the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus in the Hebrews 12:1-2 chiasm
 Therefore, since we have so great
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Chiasm: a mirror image in written form

Jesus in the Hebrews 12:1-2 chiasm
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Our race

What we're called to be doing

What He did & is doing

His race

Jesus in the Hebrews 12:1-2 chiasm

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, **and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Both actions are in heaven

Jesus in the Hebrews 12:1-2 chiasm

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, **and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Both lay aside what would limit progress

Jesus in the Hebrews 12:1-2 chiasm

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, **and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Both endure in what is set before

Jesus in the Hebrews 12:1-2 chiasm

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, The emphasis & turning point who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus, the center of Hebrews 12:1-2

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Hebrews 12:1 (NASB95)

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by faith...




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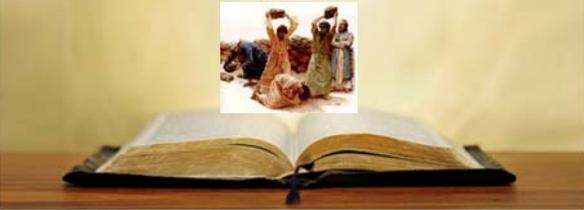

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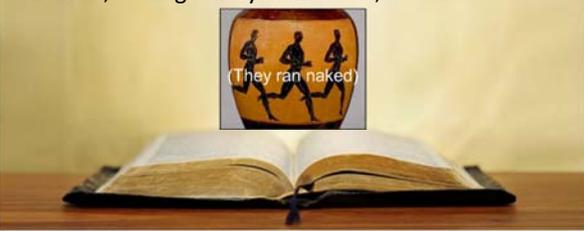
Acts 7:57-58 (NASB95)

⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses **laid aside** their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul (cf. Rom. 13:12; Eph. 4:22, 25; Col. 3:8; Jam. 1:21; 1 Peter 2:1).



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Philippians 3:12-14 (NASB95)

¹² Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



Philippians 3:14a (NASB95)
"...toward the goal for the prize..."

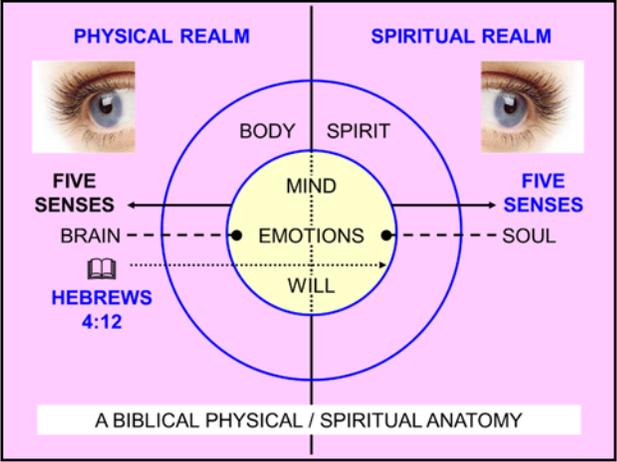
The post at the finish was the goal toward which the runner or chariot racer would look, fixing his eye on it (Hebrews 12:2).



Hebrews 12:1-2a (NASB95)

¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² **fixing our eyes** on Jesus,...





EACH OF THE FIVE SENSES IN THE PHYSICAL REALM HAS AN 'ANALOG' IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM:

Hebrews 12:1-2, "fixing our eyes on Jesus"	
1 Peter 2:3 - "you have tasted"	
Hebrews 5:11-14 - "dull of hearing..."	
2 Corinthians 2:14-16 - "the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him"	
Ephesians 4:19 - "being past feeling".	

*An analogy explains an idea or thing by comparing it to something that is familiar; a comparison between two things, typically for the purpose of explanation or clarification.

Hebrews 12:1-2a (NASB95)

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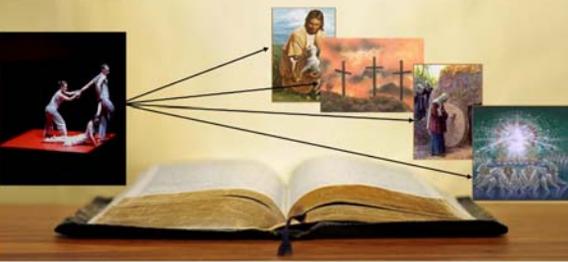
Hebrews 12:2b (NASB95)

² ...**Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.




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² ...Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

About this thing called 'faith'

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² ...**Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.




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² ...**Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.




Was the cross shameful?

DON'T MESS WITH ROME!




Hebrews 12:2b (NASB95)

² ...**Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and **has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**.

Psalm 110:1 (NASB95)

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."



Ephesians 1:3 (NASB95)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing **in the heavenly places in Christ**,



Hebrews 12:2b (NASB95)

² ...**Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and **has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**.



Ephesians 2:4-7 (NASB95)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.



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CONCLUSION

Seven horizontal lines for writing.

FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

- Fixing our eyes on Jesus, **by beholding Him through God's written word** and so being changed from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).



Seven horizontal lines for writing.

FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS



- Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the one whose glory John and the apostles saw and **through whose eyes we still behold Him** (John 1:14).



Seven horizontal lines for writing.

FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

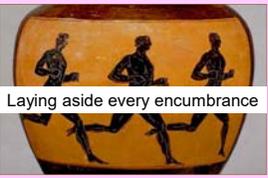
- Fixing our eyes on Jesus, **for the very purpose of fellowship** – with each other, with the Father and with Him, and that our joy in Him may be full (1 John 1:1-4).





FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

- **Fixing the eyes of our hearts on Jesus**, laying aside every hindrance, knowing that He is already seated and we are seated with Him in the heavenlies (Heb. 12:1-2).




Laying aside every encumbrance

FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS



crucified



buried



raised



ascended



seated

Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...and has sat down...

