***FINISHING THE RACE***

**Hebrews 12:1-2 & John 15:4-7**

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***Introduction***

This lesson seeks to encourage members of the Body of Christ to complete what we have begun in faithful, obedient, fashion. Since we don’t know when the conclusion of our journey might be realized, it behooves us to strive for consistent, faithful dedication at all times. FINISHING THE RACE must be our goal that we can hear the Lord say “well done!”

***Body of Lesson***

I. **Who** (do we follow / imitate)

 A. Jesus Christ **Hebrews 12:1-2** note **v. 2**

 B. We must abide in Jesus Christ **John 15:4-7**

1. *Abide*- to stand fast; remain; go on being.

II. **What** (do we need to do)

 A. We must be in Christ body **Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18**

1. Elaborate on how one gets into the body of Christ (what did we do to become Christians).

 a. Hear **Rom. 10:17**, Believe **Hebrews 11:6**, Repent **Acts 17:30**, Confess **Matt.** **10:32-33**,

 Be Baptized **Acts 2:38**, **Galatians 3:26-27**, **Matthew 28:19-20**, **Mark 16:15-16**

 B. We walk in him **Colossians 2:6**

C. We must be in his family **Romans 8:14-17**

III. **How** (do we)

 A. Be obedient **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

 B. Abound in the work of the Lord **I Corinthians 15:58**

 C. Live worthy of our calling **Ephesians 4:1-3**

 D. Be doers of the word (work) **James 1:22**

 E. Serve with all our heart **Deuteronomy 10:12**

 F. Serve Fervently **Romans 12:11**

IV. **Why** (should we)

 A. There is no condemnation in him **Romans 8:1-4**

 B. So nothing can separate us **Romans 8:35-39**

 C. To be confident of our salvation **II Peter 1:8-10**

 D. To receive an eternal reward **Revelations 2:10**

***Conclusion***

As a result of our study of this subject matter, I am hopeful, even prayerful that we have gained greater insights as to what FINISHING WELL means.

**SCRIPTURE**

**Hebrew 12:1-2**

**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, **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.

**John 15:4-7**

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. **5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **6** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

**Ephesians 1:22-23**

**22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Colossians 1:18**

**18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**Colossians 2:6**

**6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

**Romans 8:14-17**

**14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint- heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13**

**13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

**58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

**1** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**James 1:22**

**22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

**Deuteronomy 10:12**

**12** And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

**Romans 12:11**

**11** Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

**Romans 8:1-4**

**1** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**Romans 8:35-39**

**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

**37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 Peter 1:8-10**

**8** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. **10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

**Revelation 2:10**

**10** Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.