|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Slide # |  |
| 1 | **A Call To Action – Let Us Lay Aside & Run…**  **Hebrews 12:1-2** |
| 2 | **Why Use *“Let Us”*?**  These statements **represent more than suggestions**, they are imperative commands. Actions we are **responsible for doing which left undone are sinful**. (James 4:17)  The words ***“Let us”*** are simply added by the translators to **imperative commands** to **emphasize the scope of responsibility**.  For example, in the original language, Hebrews 4:1 actually reads, **“Fear therefore…”** & Hebrews 4:11 reads **“labor therefore”.** |
| 3 | ***“Let Us” What***?  **“Let us” in Hebrews address our relationships in three ways:**   1. **Our relationship to each other -**  * **“Let us consider how to stimulate one another…” (Hebrews 10:24)**  1. **Our relationship to our goal of heaven.**  * **“Let us fear” (4:1)** * **“Let us be diligent” (4:11)** * **“Let us press on to maturity” (6:1)** * **“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope” (10:23)** * **“Let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin (12:1) and** * **“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (12:1)**  1. **Our relationship to our heavenly Father and Jesus.** |
| 4 | ***“Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us…”* (11:1)**  A reference to the **great examples of faith in Hebrews 11** who’ve **already run** & **successfully completed** the race.  Having faced circumstances far more challenging than we have (thus far). (Hebrews 11:32-39)   * It’s really more of a perspective of **us towards them** rather than **them towards us, as we look to those “surrounding us”**. * **All want the living to make the right decisions**! (Luke 16:27-28) |
| 5 | ***“Let Us Lay Aside Every Encumbrance…”***  ***“Encumbrance” -*** referring to any bulk or mass that is weighing us down. Any **“hindrance” or “impediment”**!  What is **slowing us down**? (Mark 4:18-19; Luke 21:34)  Focus on things not inherently sinful. Matters of liberty. **Consider the context of 1 Corinthians 9:24-27** and the command ***“run in such a way that you may win”***.  **Anything that distracts us from our focus**. (vs. 2; 2 Timothy 2:4; Luke 10:41-42; 1 Corinthians 7:35) |
| 6 | ***“and… the sin which so easily entangles us…”***  ***“The sin which so easily entangles us…”,* that which Jesus set us free from seeks to “*entangle*” us all over again.**  Example: Simon the sorcerer. (Acts 8:21-24; “… ***in the bondage of iniquity***”; cf., Gal. 4:9; 2 Pet. 2:20)  Must become day by day, “***slaves of righteousness***”. (Romans 6:5-7, 12-18)  **Must keep putting to death**… (Colossians 3:5-10) |
| 7 | ***“Let Us Run With Endurance The Race Before Us”***  **No one can run your race for you!**  ***“Run with endurance…”,*** with **steadfastness and constancy!**  **It (“patience”) must keep growing!** (2 Peter 1:6)  **Contrasted** with **“*shrinking back*”.** (Hebrews 10:36-39)  **How is it obtained?** Not during days of prosperity. (James 1:2-4)  How we **commend ourselves to God**! (2 Cor. 6:4) |
| 8 | ***“Fixing Our Eyes On Jesus…”***  **The only way we can successfully complete our race is by turning the eyes away from all else and “fixing them” rather “on Jesus…”**  **As our example.** (Vs. 2; cf., 1 Peter 2:21-25)  He “***for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame***”.  **As our strength and assurance.** (Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:14-16)  **For our confidence and trust**. (Matthew 14:27-33; Philippians 4:13)  **Where we long to be!** (Romans 8:14-18) |