

/Hello. / Let us begin with the thirteenth lecture on Hebrews.

/The title of chapter 12 / is “Race.” / First point, run the race. / Verses 1-4. / Second point, discipline of love. / Verses 5-13. / Third, encouragements for serving the church. / Verses 14-17.

/Fourth, things for believers of the New Testament to accomplish. / Verses 18-24. / Fifth, joyfully serve God with fear and trembling. /Verses 25-29.

/We saw in Hebrews 11:40 / that God planned something better for us. / The believers of the Old Testament followed after the symbols and shadows, / but the believers of the New Testament hope in Christ who has already come.

/Also, in the period of the New Testament, there were many teachers and leaders. / God granted us more of his grace, and in broader ways.

/In the period of the Old Testament, only one nation was chosen,/ but in the period of the New Testament, all nations received God’s grace. / The believers of the Old Testament followed the faint light, / but the believers of the New Testament are walking under a bright light.

/The reason why God prepared something better for us / was to achieve perfection / through us. / “Perfection” / refers to believers of the Old and New Testaments who participate in the heavenly glory. / In Hebrews 11, the believers / went ahead in faith.

/Now, we believers of the New Testament/ must run the race of faith well. / What is the reason for this race? / First, the example of the believers of the Old Testament. / Second, the example of the believers of the New Testament. / Third, / God’s loving plan which he plans to achieve through suffering.

/We believers of Jesus begin the race/ the moment we are born again. / The period of this race/ is our entire life. / The reward / is heavenly glory.

/We see in verse 1/ the great cloud of witnesses that surround us. / They are the forefathers of faith who went before us and who are mentioned in chapter 11.

/In the Old Testament, those who did not meet Christ / lived with faith in the coming Christ. / We

believers of the New Testament saw the true Christ. / The truth was revealed all the more through the apostles, teachers, and elders.

/Hence, we must / run the race of faith better than the believers of the Old Testament. / How do we run the race? / By throwing off “everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.” / Things that hinder us/ refer to unnecessary burdens.

/These are the things that render us incapable of using the strength God gave us. / They are things that keep us from using the time that God gave us. / In Matthew 13:22, these are / the worries of the world / and temptations of wealth. / 1 Peter 2:11 says, / these are envy, jealousy, and gossip.

/We must restrain ourselves from such fleshly desires. / In order for us to have a beautiful garden, / we need to get rid of weeds. / There are things that easily entangle and / ensnare us, / and these refer to depravity.

/We must ask for grace to fight /against unbelief / and the sins in us. / The verse says that we must throw out everything that hinders us and the sins that easily entangle us,/ and we must persevere.

/Perseverance is, / first, / acceptance that everything in our lives /comes from God. /Second, it is the act of doing what we are supposed to do. / Even the lightest things feel heavy /to those who have run the race for a long time.

/Those who run the race of faith well / deny themselves, / restrain,/ and persevere well. / They are not dragged along by anyone, / but actively run the race. / They throw off laziness and indolence, / and they stand from the seat of weakness.

/It says in verse 2, / “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” / Our Jesus is the perfecter of faith. / Jesus acted in faith, / trusted the Father, / and left everything to him even in the midst of sufferings.

/Jesus overcame temptations with faith. / Jesus performed signs and wonders with faith. / If we fix our eyes on Jesus, / we will be able to throw out everything that hinders us as well as sins that easily entangle us. / Our Jesus can also make us perfect.

/Jesus perfects our faith. / He is the perfect model of faith and obedience. / Moreover, God

perfects us through tribulations. / God makes us perfect by leading us to glory.

/We must fix our eyes on Jesus. / Jesus saw the joy set before Him.

/The joy He saw was His resurrection and being seated at the right hand of God, / glorifying God through obedience, /and saving God's chosen people to accomplish the kingdom of God. /This was the joy the Lord wanted.

/In verse 3, it says, / "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

/The sinners opposed Jesus. / Jesus was greatly opposed by His people. / Still, our Jesus endured everything.

/We see in verse 4, / "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."

/This means / that when we run the race of faith, / we must endure, even if there is death by bleeding.

/We also see in verse 5, / "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline.'"

/To discipline /means to discover the sins in us and use the rod. /This is proof of love and care. /He discovers things in us that must be rebuked. /Even believers of Jesus do things that are wrong.

/God sees them and tries to correct them. / We receive discipline because we are his children. / Otherwise, we would not be disciplined.

/The cult group called the Salvation Sect / claims that a believer must not call himself a sinner because he has become righteous. / Such a claim is incorrect even when we compare it with the passage today.

/This chapter in Hebrews is not saying that a righteous man can ignore God's word. / There are

many things that believers of Jesus do wrong. / This is because the depraved nature of the flesh is still in us.

/Thus, when we commit sins, God disciplines us. / The first reason for his discipline/ is to prevent us from sinning. / 2 Corinthians 12:7. / Second, it is to test us. / James 1:2-3.

/Third, / it is so that we would bear sufferings for the truth. /Acts 5:41. /Fourth, it is punishment for our sins.

/It says, “you have forgotten that word of encouragement.”

/“You” refers to Hebrew believers. / The believers forgot and did not think about God’s word.

/Not following the word of God is arrogance. / “Do not make light/ of the Lord’s discipline.”/ To make light of the Lord’s discipline is to /first, have an indifferent attitude, /an indifferent attitude. /Second, it is to complain. /Third, it is to be careless.

/Next, it says, “do not lose heart.” / To lose heart is to / first, throw away all encouragements, /and failing to do anything. /Second, it is to doubt that one is a child of God. /Acts 14:22. /Third, unbelief. /Psalm 42:5. /Fourth, despair.

/We are not to lose heart and think lightly of God’s discipline when we are being disciplined.

/We see in verse 6 / that God disciplines those he loves. / God disciplines us as his child because he loves us. /We must not complain when we receive sufferings, /and we must not give up because the sufferings are too difficult to bear.

/Suffering is a touchstone of faith. / Believers with faith need discipline. / God corrects the faith of his children. / Discipline comes from God’s love.

/God disciplines those he loves. / We must understand how much God loves us.

/It says in verse 7, / “Endure hardship as discipline.” / God treats us as his children. / Our Jesus endured sufferings. / He endured even when people opposed Him. / We must endure well as Jesus did.

/It says in verse 8, “If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline— / then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.”

/It says everyone undergoes discipline. / However, only God’s children undergo his discipline. / Unbelievers do not receive God’s discipline.

/It says in verse 9, / “Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it.”

/When our physical father disciplines us, we must obey and submit to him. / If that is the case, shouldn’t we obey God, our spiritual Father? / We must learn to obey God through these comparisons.

/Moreover, our parents guide us only for a little while. / Also, their discipline benefit us for a short period of time. / Yet, God the Father’s discipline / comes from love. / It rules over all aspects of a Christian’s life/ and it is for the sake of giving us eternal and spiritual blessings.

/We must submit to our spiritual Father. / First, / God disciplines us in the way he is pleased with. / Second, / we must let go of our will. / Third, / we must know that God’s works are righteous and wise.

/Fourth, / we must acknowledge God’s protection / and understand his love. / We must submit to him.

/We see in verse 10, / “They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; / but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.”

/God grants physical suffering to solve our spiritual problems. / Let us say that a man saved another man from drowning. / However, in the process of saving him, the arm of the man who was drown got dislocated.

/A man was saved, / so must that man be angry about his dislocated arm? /There are many times when God grants physical pain for the sake of our souls. / Like the example we saw, God tries to give us spiritual benefits through his discipline.

/What kind of benefits can he give us? / He makes us stay away from the world /and trust in God. /We go see doctors /when we are in pain.

/When the daughter of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue, got sick, / when a Canaanite woman's daughter was possessed by a demon, / when Lazarus was sick,/ they all went to Jesus.

/More worth is added to God's promise through discipline. /Isaiah 43:2 /2 Corinthians 12:9 /Discipline also makes us have more compassion on others. /2 Corinthians 1:4 /It also confirms that God's grace is a blessing and is enough. /It also lets us participate in Christ's suffering.

/In verse 11 it says,/ "No discipline seems pleasant at the time." / It seems sad when seen through thoughts of the flesh. / However, the holy will of God that is hidden in his discipline/ lets us bear fruit of righteousness.

/We see in verse 12, / "Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees."

/There are times when we want to give up walking down the path of faith. / We must not despair even in such times, but continue to go forward.

/Our weak knees are strengthened, / which means that we recognize God's love/ and continue to walk with our eyes fixed upon God. / If we do so, we can run the race of faith well. / The verses teach us to turn from wrong things / and finish the race of faith.

/We see in verse 14, / "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy."

/When the Hebrew believers received this letter, / they converted from Judaism to Christianity. / As a result of their conversion, / the Jews/ called the Christians traitors/ and persecuted them.

/It is not easy to follow the gospel in the midst of such persecutions. /There were many people who opposed them. / Still, the verse here tells them to live in peace with such people.

/We believers of Jesus must maintain peace in our hearts /and live in peace with others. /We must pursue peace and holiness. /To make an effort /means to seek with a desperate heart.

/To make every effort means to chase after something just as a hunter chases after an animal. /We

believers must strive to live in peace with everyone. / This is because our God is the God of peace.

/There are times when we fail even when we try our best. / This is why we are to make every effort. / When we try hard, God will give us his grace. / The Lord told us to ask.

/We must also make every effort to be holy. / This holiness / is living a worthy life as devoted people of God. / We must strive to live in peace,/ but we must also strive to be holy.

/We must resemble Christ. / Without holiness, we cannot see God. / It means that without holiness, one cannot communicate spiritually with the Lord.

/The call to make every effort / shows that we must continue to try our best.

/We see in verse 15, / “See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God.”

/It says that we need to see to it that no one falls short of the grace of God. / Many temptations come to us as we live on this earth. / We sometimes become discouraged. / In those times, we must take care of ourselves. / We must also look after other people.

/“See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God.”/ The reason why some fall short of the grace of God is because / they did not continually use the external instrument of faith.

/This means that they did not pray, / read the Scripture, / communicate with God, / love Christ, / and were careless and lazy. / A businessman/ makes efforts to increase his wealth.

/The reason why we fall short of the grace of God/ is because we do not make good use of the things given to us. / God gave us faith/ and let us live in Christ. / Yet, we do not keep this well.

/The growing of bitter root/ is the sin in us. / If we fail to kill this sin, we won't receive grace. / Romans 6:12 / Proverbs 4:23

/The verse says this bitter root grows and causes trouble. / It causes trouble /in our hearts.

/Also, the verse says that this root defiles many. / This bitter root is bound to spread to others.

/We see in verse 16, / “See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.”

/The verses talks about the sin of sexual immorality/ and of blaspheming God. / Sexual immorality is sin concerning people. / The sin of Esau concerns God. / It says Esau is godless. / Esau abandoned his inheritance right as the oldest son.

/He considered physical joy greater than spiritual joy. / Being godless/ is refusing the Holy Spirit, / opposing God’s servants, / ignoring the gospel, / and making fun of the afterlife.

/Esau cries / in Genesis 27:34, /but this was not a cry of repentance /but that of self-pity. / Isaac refused Esau’s request, /which shows that Esau was abandoned. / Esau wept and asked, but he did not repent.

/In verse 18, / it says, “You have not come to a mountain.” / In Exodus 19:22, / it speaks of the view from Mount Sinai.

/Verse 18 speaks of a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire, darkness, gloom and storm, and a trumpet blast or a voice speaking words are mentioned in verse 19. / Those who heard the sound begged that no word would be spoken to them.

/It says in verse 20, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” /

This reflects the strictness of the law. / It also shows that we cannot go before God with the law. / Moses delivered God’s will to the king of Egypt. / He was the commander of the Israel army. / He was a holy person.

/However, it says in verse 21/ that even Moses was terrified and trembled. / This shows how inferior Judaism is / to Christianity. /

/We see in verse 22, “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.”



/We believers of the New Testament participated / in Mount Zion. / “Zion” refers to God’s dwelling place. / Psalm 9:11/ It refers to the throne of Christ. / Psalm 2:6. / It also refers to God’s promises. / Psalm 125:1. / Also, the gospel came out from Zion. / Isaiah 40:9

/It is also the place of joy in the whole world. / Psalm 48:2/ The place they have come to is that they now participate in the glorious blessing promised to those who came to believe through the gospel.

/Zion is the dwelling place of grace, /the throne of Christ, /and the purpose of all promises.

/“The heavenly Jerusalem.” / This refers to heaven itself. / The earthly Jerusalem / was the worshipping place of God. / “Thousands upon thousands” / refer to the holy angels.

/“The church of the firstborn.” / The idea of the “firstborn” / is not the sense of being first, /but the sense of superiority, / nobility, / supremacy, / and the right to receive the inheritance. / Genesis 49:3/ Psalm 89:27/ Hebrews 12:16/ Deuteronomy 21:16

/This title described the superiority of the glory of the church that was greater than that of the angels of heaven. / Israel was the firstborn among the nations. / Exodus 4:22/ The church is the firstborn of God. / The church is the firstborn of the holy God of the heaven.

/“God, the Judge of all.”/ We have reached the highest being of heaven. / “The spirits of the righteous made perfect.” / This is not absolute, but relative. / It means that they finished the race they have participated in. / They broke away from sin and other efforts.

/In verse 24 it says, “Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.” / Only Jesus Christ can save us until the end.

/“The sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”/ The ceremonies of the Old Testament symbolized the redemption of Christ. / Abel offered the blood of a lamb, /and Jesus shed His blood on the cross.

/The believers of the Old Testament participated in fear. / However, the believers of the New Testament reached /the church of /the assembly of the eternal elders /in the everlasting kingdom of God /through Christ.

/We see in verse 25, / “See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. / If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth.”

/When the laws were spoken through Moses, / disobedience to it led to judgment. / How much greater would the warning be when it is received from heaven? / Now we are people who have participated in God’s grace. / Thus, we must not enter the place of disobedience.

/We see in verse 26, / “At that time his voice shook the earth.”

/The shaking of the earth here /refers to one that takes place on earth /and of things that belong to the earth. /It says his voice shook the earth. / Exodus 19:18/ Psalm 29:3-9

/In verse 27, it says, / “The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what can be shaken—/ that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.”

/It says things will be shaken./ The heavens will be shaken, /and this does not mean that the heavens will move. /It shows that the power / and glory that comes from Christ’s voice spoken through the gospel is/ transcendental and glorious.

/It was written this way for a more vivid expression. / To shake refers to the great change / that appeared through God’s power, / which was evident in the works of humans.

/To shake refers to the great change / that appeared through God’s power, / which was shown in the works of humans. / Psalm 46:1-2 / 46:6/ Psalm 60:2-3 / Jeremiah 10:10/ Luke 21:26

/The earth will be shaken as well. / The covenant made in Mount Sinai/ with the world was a temporary one. / It was about the inheritance of the earth, / the sanctuary of the world, / ceremonies that are symbols, / and regulations of the body.

/However, it says that in the period of the New Testament, / the heavens will be shaken. / This means that God will give a new covenant. / The old covenant was given in Mount Sinai, / but the new covenant was given in Mount Zion. / It was given from Christ / to God’s people.

/This will remain forever. / When Jesus came down to this earth,/ the whole world shook. / God’s word was fulfilled /through the first coming of Jesus.

/We see in verse 28,/ “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”

/The “kingdom that cannot be shaken” is Christ’s kingdom. / We who have received this kingdom / should receive the grace of God.

/This is because/ verse 29 says that God is a consuming fire. / We received the kingdom through the word of promise. / We received it with grace. / We received it with faith. / We received it with hope. / Hence, we must endure /and carry out the responsibilities of faith.

/We must endure until the end,/ and with godliness and fear, / we must become believers who serve to please God.

/With this we will conclude the thirteenth lecture on Hebrews. / Thank you very much.