

Jesus: God’s Final Word

The Race of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-11 (ESV)

The Context: “*Therefore, since are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...*”

Who are these witnesses?

What do they model for us?

They _____ what God said.

They _____ on what was to come.

They _____ him in all kinds of difficulties.

They _____.

The Command: “... *let us also ...*”

The primary imperative is to _____.

Everything else in the passage is related to that imperative:

_____ we run ...

To _____ and *with* whom we run ...

_____ to expect when we run ...

_____ we run ...

The Challenge: “... *endurance ...*”

I must purpose to _____, not merely _____.

My perfect example: _____.

“... *endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*”

Honestly assess all the aspects of my life with this question: _____/_____?

The superfluous stuff in my life ...

The sinful stuff in my life ...

Run for the _____, and nothing less.

The only motivation sufficient for my endurance is _____, not what happens to me now.

Be _____ when I’m _____ and know how to _____ and get going again.

“Consider Jesus ...”

_____. There’s more to be given, more to be done, and more strength in you than you think.

“In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”

Learn and practice _____ and receive and learn from _____.

God has an “_____” to sanctify me!

Do I have a similar determination to “share his holiness”?

Finally, aim for a “_____” ...

Determine to run better now than ever before!

Community Ministry Opportunity

As the body of Christ, we have another opportunity to serve the neighbors of our city through the Love Dothan initiative.

When: Saturday, November 20, 8:00-12:00

Who: Residents of the Sullivan Heights neighborhood (neighborhood on either side of N. Cherokee Ave., north of Montgomery Highway)

Where: Coordination point for volunteers will be First Christian Church, located at 1401 N. Cherokee Ave., Dothan, AL 36303.

What to bring: Cleanup will be the primary focus of our service. Bring useful tools such as chainsaws, pole saws, lawn mowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, pruning shears, rakes, and work gloves.

If you or your Life Group are interested in volunteering, email tommy@calvarydothan.com or call the church office.

Help Provide a Thanksgiving Meal for Fostering Hope Families

Calvary’s Women’s Ministry has agreed to provide 60 side dishes to foster families through Fostering Hope. The church will provide large aluminum pans and lids plus freezer space but we need ladies who can fill the dishes and have it ready to bake. Pans can be picked up in the church office. Side dishes needed are: macaroni and cheese, green bean casserole, corn casserole, sweet potato casserole, and chicken and dressing. After it is all assembled, write on the outside of the container with permanent marker what the casserole/dish is and get it to the church by November 18 to be delivered to Fostering Hope on November 20.

Women’s Coffee & Connect

Sunday, November 7 | 3:00 pm | Parlor (Note Room Change)

All women are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee, engage in meaningful conversation, and connect with someone new.

Dinner with the Pastor

Monday, November 8 (DATE CHANGE) | 6:15 pm | Parlor

Membership Matters

Wednesday, November 17 | 5:45 pm | Parlor

If you are considering membership at Calvary, please join us for Dinner with the Pastor and the Membership Matters class. Contact angie@calvarydothan.com or call the church office to RSVP for the dinner and childcare. Childcare will be provided for 6-week-olds through 5th grade.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Collection Sunday: November 14

Pack a shoebox and send good news and great joy around the world. Shoeboxes are available in the Fellowship Center Foyer and church office.

Second Sunday Night Prayer Service

November 14 | 6:00 pm | Fellowship Center

Prayer Focus: Missions

Thanksgiving Communion Service

Join us Tuesday, November 23 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary for a service of thanksgiving and communion.

Preschool Ministry Needs

The Lord is blessing Calvary by bringing young families with their preschool aged children. We need the following:

- a baby teacher on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m.
- paid employees—must be 18 years old to apply.
- more VIPs - This is only 4 times per year—one time every 3 months.

For more information, contact Joyce Alexander (334) 798-4791 or Joyce@calvarydothan.com

Senior Adult Mid-Month Veterans Day Service & Lunch

Thursday, November 11 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

One of our elders, Dave Lindey, will be preaching the worship service. There will be a special time of remembering and honoring our veterans during the service. Lunch will be served as a sit down meal in the Fellowship Center immediately following worship.

Want to help decorate for Christmas?

If you can help put up Christmas decorations at the church on Monday, November 22, please call the church office and let us know.

Watching distance running on TV is so boring that someone argued, “Even *Forrest Gump* required a montage of the infamous running scene because seeing Tom Hanks travel on foot across the country in real time is not something people would pay to see.” But TV doesn’t do justice to the physical intensity and endurance required to finish—let alone win—a marathon.

... Paul says that we—whether or not we’re runners—can learn a lot about the Christian life by looking at running (1 Cor. 9:23–26).

The apostle says we should have the motivation of a runner: **to win**. “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24).

The problem, of course, is that very few runners run to win. Most of us are so far behind the elites that we don’t even see the awards ceremony. Far from hoping to be the “only one” to receive the prize, we’re just happy to get a finisher’s medal.

So what is our motivation?

While training ... my motivation wasn’t to beat the other runners but to **beat the course**.

This sense of winning is what Paul means. He wants us to win against the course and to finish well so that “race day” is enjoyable, not painful. He wants us to train with “Olympic spirituality”, as John Piper puts it. Plus, we know Paul doesn’t care about beating other runners since we know he wants them to win, too. As he tells the Philippians, he’d personally rather finish the race, but he’ll stay on the course to encourage and run with them (Phil. 1:23–25).

Paul also says we need a runner’s **self-discipline**: “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things” (1 Cor. 9:25).

Training for a marathon is holistic. All sorts of non-running activities affect running ... Marathon training changes your life for four months.

Our faith, too, affects every aspect of our lives, not just our “spiritual” activities. In every sphere—from our motivations to our relationships to our work—we’re called to deny sinful impulses and cultivate godly ones so that our zeal for God endures.

“The serious athlete doesn’t ask about how to just get by in his training,” Piper says. “He asks about what will bring about maximum performance. So the mature Christian asks, *What will stir up my zeal for God most?* And this requires holistic discipline.

Another aspect of running to emulate is its **focus on the body**. Paul says, “I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:27).

In the same way, the body is our “base of operations” for life. We know our body can be used for both godly and sinful purposes. We expect pain to come when we’re obedient and, therefore, we discipline it.

So how do we get this motivation, self-control, and discipline?

We focus on **the imperishable wreath**. Paul says there’s one important distinction between the Christian life and running - athletes compete “to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (1 Cor. 9:25).

When our eyes are fixed on Jesus, who for the joy set before him endured the cross (Heb. 12:1–2), we can run with endurance. He becomes our joy when we see that we became his.

Marathon watching may be the most boring sport to watch on TV, but there’s hardly a sport more akin to the Christian life. May our hearts be so enthralled by Christ’s beauty that we run through the pain with endurance and joy, so that we may obtain the imperishable wreath of endless life.

*The above is taken from an article by **Bethany Jenkins**. You can read the entire article here: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-most-boring-and-spiritual-olympic-sport/>*

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

My Decision Today:

I trusted Jesus as Savior.

I’d like to join Calvary Baptist Church.

I believe God is calling me into ministry/mission.

Please have a pastor or elder contact me.

If you would like to speak with someone about one of the items noted above, please visit the Next Steps Kiosk before you leave today.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pastors & Prayer Team Only

Churchwide

Connect Card

November 7, 2021

Please complete this tab, tear it off and drop it in an offering plate.

- Please update my information
- Please contact me about membership

I am a:

- First Time Guest
- Guest
- Member

Name

Address

City

State/Zip

- Male
- Female

- Married
- Single

Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Spouse

Spouse's Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

Children:

Name / Date of Birth

Name / Date of Birth

Name / Date of Birth

Name / Date of Birth

Please complete the additional information on the back of this tab, if applicable.

November 7, 2021



I'm New Here

To fill out a digital Connect Card or learn more about Calvary, please use your smartphone camera to scan the QR Code.

How to Become a Christian

Want more information about how to become a Christian? Go to calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/.

If you would like to view a pdf of today's sermon notes, go to calvarydothan.com/podcast or use Calvary's MobileMission app.

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901 Montezuma Avenue
Dothan, AL 36303
Church Office 334.792.5159
Weekday 334.793.9898

FIRST TIME GUEST?

We're so glad you've joined us for worship today and would love to be able to share more with you about our church. Please fill out the Connect Card to the left and place it in one of the offering plates when they are passed. Be sure to stop by our Next Steps kiosk after the service for a gift from us!

THE PEOPLE CAME...

October 31
Life Groups: 512
10:00 Worship: 535
Hispanic Church: 132
Grace City Church (NY): 30

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund
Given October 31: \$49,148
Jan.-Sept. Budget
Surplus (Deficit): (\$308.13)

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, November 7:
2 Sam 23, Gal 3, Ezk 30, Ps 78:38-72
Monday, November 8:
2 Sam 24, Gal 4, Ezk 31, Ps 79
Tuesday, November 9:
1 Kgs 1, Gal 5, Ezk 32, Ps 80
Wednesday, November 10:
1 Kgs 2, Gal 6, Ezk 33, Ps 81-82
Thursday, November 11:
1 Kgs 3, Eph 1, Ezk 34, Ps 83-84
Friday, November 12:
1 Kgs 4-5, Eph 2, Ezk 35, Ps 85
Saturday, November 13:
1 Kgs 6, Eph 3, Ezk 36, Ps 86

Midweek Schedule

5:30 pm Midweek Meal, Fellowship Center
6:00 pm Midweek Worship, Sanctuary
Preschool, Birth-K5, Preschool Building
Children, Grades 1-5, ROC
Students, Grades 6-12, Student Room
7:00 pm Adult Choir

4 Ways to Give

- Give online by using the MobileMission app for Apple or Android or go to calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline.
- On Sundays, drop in the offering plate or in the collection boxes near the Fellowship Center exit doors
- Mail to 901 Montezuma Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303
- Bring to the church office, M-F, 8am-12noon & 1-4:30pm

Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson.....Senior Pastor
Charles Uptain.....Executive Pastor
Dan Tankersley.....Discipleship
Tommy Perry.....Community
Joyce Alexander.....Preschool
Zach Daniels.....Children
Reagan Farris.....Students
Randy Hunt.....Senior Adults

STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, November 7:
Randy Hunt | 334-7917986
Saturday, November 13:
Charles Uptain | 334-797-7191
Sunday, November 14:
Reagan Farris | 504-319-6986

SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 10 | 6:00 pm
Genesis: Where Grace Begins
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, November 14 | 10:00 am

Jesus: God's Final Word
A Faith that Finishes
Hebrews 12:12-17
Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, November 17 | 6:00 pm

Genesis: Where Grace Begins
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, November 21 | 10:00 am

Jesus: God's Final Word
On the Other Side of Faith
Hebrews 12:18-24
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 am Call to Prayer, Sanctuary
8:30 am Life Group
10:00 am Worship, Fellowship Center
Live Stream on Facebook & YouTube
Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5,
Chapel (except 1st Sunday)
11:00 am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM
94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8



WELCOME TO
Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH