

**Summer Topical Series - #9**  
**Enduring the Cross – Matt.26:36-46; Heb.12:1-2**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 You know what it's like to put up with unpleasantness briefly in order to benefit
- 0.2 Sermon request centered on phrase in Heb.12:2

1.0 The Epistle to the Hebrews

- 1.1 Initially one/two most unfavorable books in NT
- 1.2 We don't know author, destination, nor recipients; sent to/from Rome (13:24);  
for frustrated/disappointed sectarian-Jewish-Christian believers
- 1.3 Sounds sometimes like letter (e.g. ch.13) and at others like sermon (11:32)
- 1.4 Theme = superiority of Jesus: over prophets (1:1-2), angels (1:4-2:18), Moses, etc.  
(3:1-4:13), Aaron, Melchizedek & priesthood (4:14-10:18)
- 1.5 Portrays that "great hall of faith" in heaven (ch.11)
- 1.6 Overall: Jesus is superior way to God and life (10:19-12:29)

2.0 Running the Race in Hebrews (Ch.12)

- 2.1 Life hard & fraught with difficulty; so is Christian life
- 2.2 Running the race (v.1) – w/ "great cloud of witnesses around us" – identifying obstacles
- 2.3 Jesus uniquely called "author & perfecter of faith" (v.2) who endured obstacles too (v.3)
- 2.4 What he endured (v.2): suffering + shame
- 2.5 We endure something unpleasant if greater good is near – see Phil.2:6-8

3.0 Trading Sorrow for Joy Today

- 3.1 Observe this trade in beatitudes (Matt.5:3-10) → obtaining kingdom of heaven
- 3.2 Observe this trade in Paul's life of service - II Tim.4:7-8
- 3.3 This comes up often in life

*Next week (Sept.6) – Summer Topical Series #10*  
*Opening the Gates of Jerusalem – Psalm 122:1-9*

## Matthew 26:36-46 (NASB)

### The Garden of Gethsemane

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. <sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”

<sup>39</sup> And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” <sup>40</sup> And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour? <sup>41</sup> Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. <sup>45</sup> Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”

## Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB)

### Jesus, the Example

12 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, <sup>2</sup> 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.