

KEEP ON, KEEPING ON

TEXT: II TIMOTHY 4:6-8

INTRO:

1. I'm heaven born, and heaven bound, but until I get there life must go on.
2. The Scriptures tell us that we are in the race of our life.
3. Paul said, "I have finished the course."
4. Some people never finish nor complete a project. In school-many ~~courses~~ ^{COURSES} are graded "INCOMPLETE". On the job men cut corneres and never do a job right. There are many believers who never finish the course. Some find it easier to sit on the sidelines and criticize than get in the race.
5. How do we keep on, keeping on?

I. KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS.

A. Hebrews 12:1,2

1. See Him more clearly

- How do we do this?

a) Sometimes we need to **stand still.**

SEE EX. 14:13 & Psalm 46:10. "Be still"

- Often we get ^{Stand Still} caught-up in the hussle and bussle of life.
- Often times get caught-up in the work of the Lord instead of the Lord.
- Example: Mary & Martha - Luke 10:38-42.

b) We need to study His Word

- Jesus said - SEE John 5:39 - *Search scriptures, testify of Jesus.*

2. Love Him more dearly.

- John 14:15 - "Keep His Commandments"

- Scriptures says if any man loves God it is known of him. Is it known of You? Is that your testimony?
- Acts 21:13 - Paul's testimony.

3. Walk with Him more nearly.

- James 4:8 - "Draw nigh to God"
- Amos 3:3 Asks a question "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"
- The Answer is No!!!
- We can only walk with God if agree with Him.
- We don't have to be sinless to walk with God, but we have to agree with God we are a sinner and acknowledge our sin and ask His forgiveness.
- Christians are very quick to acknowledge their achievements. Or God's achievements through them
- You know "I did this and I did that"
- Never, giving God the glory.
- But seldom do Christians want to acknowledged their sin.
- You know why David was a man after God's own heart.
- One of the reason is that he acknowledged his sin!!!
- SEE PSALMS 32:5 & 51:3
- Christian you need to take responsibility for your sin.
- Stop blaming some else for it.
- You know the pastor or his family or the deacons the Sunday School Teachers
- When a Christian can like David say before God.
- Lord **"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."**
- Once you do that then God will be able to use you! - Amen

- It says about Peter - "he was afraid"
- Panic follows - out of control, tossed to and fro like the wind does to the wave.
- Flesh in control, instead of Spirit.
- In this situation liable to do anything.
- We saw Peter later on deny the Lord, when the situation got to much to handle instead keeping his eyes on the Lord.
- Instead of remembering what the Lord said earlier what was happening would come to past.
- Only when Peter put his eyes back on Lord ~~that~~ ^{them} he weeped.
- Realize what he had done.
- When we take our eyes off Lord need to put them back on Him so realize what we have done and make it right with Him. *and weep over our sin.*

II. DON'T EXPECT THE WORLD TO CHEER YOU ON.

A. They didn't cheer Paul on.

- Acts 14:19 (Paul stoned & left for dead) & Acts 16:23 -
- II Cor. 11:22-30 - Paul lists a Summaries of his Sufferings.
- Notice Vs. 24 "of the Jews"
- Vs. 26 "in perils by mine own countrymen"
- Paul's own people did him dirty.
- Remember, Jesus said in reference to own countrymen "a prophet is without honor in own country"
- Jesus own countrymen, own family did not believe Him.

*Paul with
Silas thrown
into jail -
for freeing
woman of an evil
spirit.*

B. Three ingredients for finishing the course. - text

1. Durability - be tough, fight a good fight
2. Direction - have a plan, cross the finish line.
3. Determination - walk with God, keep the faith.

III. FOCUS ON THE FUTURE WHEN THE PRESENT IS DIFFICULT

A. Paul saw death was near, but he looked beyond - Vs 6.

B. We should look beyond

1. Students - look beyond education to ^{their} your vocation

1 Cor 8:3

- Scriptures says if any man loves God ^{the same is} ~~it is~~ known of him. Is it known of You? Is that your testimony?
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3. Walk with Him more nearly.

- James 4:8 - "Draw nigh to God", *and he will draw nigh to you*
- Amos 3:3 Asks a question "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"
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- We can only walk with God if agree with Him.
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- Christians are very quick to acknowledge their achievements ~~the~~ God's achievements through them
- You know "I did this and I did that" *syndrome*
- Never, giving God the glory.
- But seldom do Christians want to acknowledged their sin.
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B. The danger of taking eyes off of the Lord.

- SEE MT. 14:29-30
- Start Sinking
- When take eyes off the Lord and put on your circumstances
- Fear enters the picture.

2. Parents - look beyond child rearing to the finished product.
3. Look beyond your afflictions, Paul did, II Cor. 4:17
4. Look beyond your infirmities, Paul did, II Cor. 12:9-10.
5. 1 John 3:2 - Look beyond to the Lord's coming
6. Phil. 3:20-21 - new glorified body

IV. THE KEY ELEMENT

A. God never learns a thing when we pray (He is all knowing) .

1. The benefit of prayer in times of despondency is the therapy that results in us when we unload our burden on Him. That is how He wants it.

- SEE James 5:13 & I Peter 5:7

B. Don't ever cease praying *1) "Pray without ceasing"*
 1. *1) I Thess. 5:17 & Luke 18:1* *2) "...men ought always to pray and not to faint"*

2. When Daniel knew the decree was signed to prohibit him from praying he went to his room, "and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforesaid." (Dan. 6:10).

- He was thrown into lions den.

C. Don't be afraid to ask other Christians to pray for you. Paul said in I Thess. 5:25 - *"Brethren, pray for us."*

V. REALIZE THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE

A. II TIM 4:8 - Paul believed there were others that were working and waiting for the Lord to come and take them home.

B. I KINGS 19:9-18 - Elijah felt he was all alone but God *vs 16 - Remnant left - not bowed to Baal - the god of this world - Satan* assured him that there were others who had not quit.

C. We cannot quit but continue to do it God's way without any compromise.

D. Knowing there is a crown of righteousness laid up which the Lord Jesus Christ will give us, *himself*

REVIEW:

HOW TO KEEP ON, KEEPING ON

- 1) KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS**
- 2) DON'T EXPECT THE WORLD OR EVEN YOUR OWN FAMILY TO CHEER YOU ON.**
- 3) FOCUS ON THE FUTURE WHEN THE PRESENT IS DIFFICULT**
- 4) THE KEY ELEMENT IS PRAYER**
- 5) REALIZE THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE**