

THE
"HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN"
SERIES

ROMANS 12:1-2

TAPE NUMBER WNX-503 FEBRUARY 17, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

KEEPING YOUR FOCUS

*A SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP, HOLINESS
AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Endurance, Perseverance, Readiness

Introduction to the Text;

Romans 12:1-2

The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage

WE'VE BEEN LEARNING THE ESSENTIALS ABOUT,
"HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?"

Rom. 12:1-2

I **beseech** (urge, personally challenge, plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** to God, *which is* your reasonable service :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2Tim. 2:3-5

You therefore must endure hardship **as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. :4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. :5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned **unless he competes** according to the rules.

Keeping your eye **on the ball**
is key if you're desiring to hit a **homerun**.

Keeping your eye **on the target**
is required if you're going to hit the **bull's-eye**.

And keeping your eye **on the finish line**
is a must if you intend to be **victorious**.

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"HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN" KEEPING YOUR FOCUS

1.) Focus on enduring

2Tim. 2:3-4

You **therefore must endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4
No one **engaged** in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that
he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

endure hardship

kakopage+ w kakopattheo, kak-op-ath-eh'-o; from the same as 2552; to undergo
the affliction, to hardening, the suffering & trouble.

John 16:33b

In the world you will have **tribulation**; but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:22

Now Paul and Barnabas went about **strengthening** the souls of the disciples,
exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**We must through many
tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**"

FOCUS ON ENDURING

1a.) Enduring the past

The Purpose of Boot Camp is a Pretty Amazing Thing;
Yes, it's to prepare you for the coming battles.
But its more than that...

Boot camp begins by “removing you from your past”

2Tim. 2:4

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life,
that he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

a **new purpose** to this individuals life has been created.
You have new masters, new rules, new requirements, new mission.

you're not the same person anymore

as a Christian, my past now makes perfect sense to me.
It was all a great training ground for this moment, right now,
For tomorrow and for next week.

**What if the Disciple Really, Really, Really Believed in Jesus,
How different would their lives have been...**

Example;

“Jesus tells his disciple to get into the boat and go to the other side and he will meet them there... a storms hits and they believe in the power of the storm more than the word of Jesus” peter got the closest to getting it right, in reality, they should have taking turns wind surfing and water walking on the sea.

Applied Bible 101

Phil. 3:12-14

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (*for, or purpose*) :13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting** those things which are behind and **reaching forward** to those things which are ahead. :14 I **press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God** in Christ Jesus.

forgetting

ejpilanga & nomai **epilanthanomai**, *ep-ee-lan-than'-om-ahee*
to **willfully** neglect. to **intentionally** forget, to **remind** yourself to forget.

reaching forward

ejpektei + nomai **epekteinomai**, *ep-ek-ti'-nom-ahee*;
to lean over, to stretch, to strain one's self in a desired direction.

Let nothing or no one keep you from the goal.

(it's the exact same goal as all other true Christians)

the upward call of God

The Lord is now responsible for us. That said; we're to do things His way.

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”

KEEPING YOUR FOCUS

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FOCUS ON ENDURING

1b.) Enduring **the disappointments**

The next thing that Boot camp does

is that it builds you up from the inside out.
It convinces you that you can and will survive.

2Tim. 2:3-4

You therefore **must endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4 No one **engaged** in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

facing the disappointments

every Christian contends with pain, sorrow & suffering.

The power lays with what we decide to do with our pain, sorrow & suffering,
Which, when not dealt with rightly – **can lead to regret**

2Cor. 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, :5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity (to arrest or to place under arrest) to the obedience of Christ,**

converting our disappointments to benefits

Rom. 8:18,28,35-39

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us... :28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose... :35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... :37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. :38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

a word to the “Christian men”

There are far to many men today that attend a church just so they can whine, whimper, and complain about how rough and unfair their lives are.

They gripe about their wives, their bosses, and the church they attend - - instead of focusing on becoming a real man of God all this guys does think about his feelings and what others think about him – “the whiners club”

2Tim. 3:7

always learning and never able
to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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FOCUS ON ENDURING

1c.) Enduring the hardships

2Tim. 2:3-4

You **therefore must endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4
No one **engaged** in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that
he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

endure hardship

*kakopage+ w kakopattheo, kak-op-ath-eh'-o; from the same as 2552; to undergo
the affliction, to hardening, the suffering & trouble.*

identifying the hardships - so we can embrace em'

only you can decide if you're going to see
Jesus Christ in your life-issues !

is there something going on in your life that's causing you to question God or
judge others. Are you tempted to worry or to jump up and fix the situation ?

Problems, Issues, Situations, Troubles, Sorrow...

James 1:2-5

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, :3 knowing that the
testing of your faith produces patience. :4 But let patience have *its* perfect
work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. :5 If any of you
lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without
reproach, and it will be given to him.

FOCUS ON ENDURING

1d.) Enduring **the life**

“the life” being that of a Biblical Christian
we must endure **people / the world / the evil**

2Tim. 2:4

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself **with the affairs of this life**,
that he may please him who enlisted him **as a soldier**.

For deployed soldiers, The DOD knows that letters from home
can be a good thing... not all letters are an encouragement.
“Dear John Letters” can kill - - the affairs of this life

**as Christians, we need man-up
to the spiritual realities of Christianity**

the spiritual reality is – there’s weirdo’s around us

Phil. 3:2-3

Beware of **dogs**, beware of **evil workers**, beware of the **mutilation!** :3 For we
are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus,
and have no confidence in the flesh,

Christian, listen to me...

It is of great importance that we stop playing silly little games
with people who do not assist us in our walks with God.

Avoid carnal distractions.

Avoid Christians who are distracters.

Avoid conversations that lead nowhere and produce nothing.

Avoid collateral damage from other people's sins.

How do we do this? / how does this glorify Jesus Christ ?

**What heavenly or eternal value
does that issue possess?**

If you're chasing your tail or someone else's,
you're losing ground.

Everything has a Heaven or Eternal Rating to it.

1Cor. 3:11-13

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. :12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, :13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

As Christians, Be Careful Who You Fellowship With.

Rom. 16:17-18

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. :18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Here's The Goal for us tonight...

Matt. 10:22

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.
But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Matt. 24:11-13

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. :12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. :13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Jude 3

...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

(1)

pray and invite **people to accept** the lord.

(2)

offer **rededications** and recommitments

(3)

then have the ushers come forward to accept your offerings and worship

(4)

pray for the offering

!!!!!!! **Media Ministry Alert** !!!!!!!

Send Worship Ministry Out

FOR THE DECISIONS TO BE MADE

————— *End of Study* —————