

# Sunday, June 3, 2018 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

## Sermon: Win Your Race

### Read Hebrews 12:1-3



Last week we thought about how life can be like a battle. Another analogy we find in the Bible is that life is a race. We are running through life looking to be like Jesus.



The book of Hebrews says in the race we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Just before our reading this morning we read of the heroes of the Old Testament. We see example of people of faith and what they were able to accomplish. It helps to have a crowd cheering you on. We are surrounded by a crowd that has already finished their race. Think about those in the crowd. There are those from the Old Testament, like Abraham, Sarah, Moses and the prophets. There are those we read about in the New Testament, the apostles and others who began the church. There are also those in church history and those who have personally been in our lives. Of course, Jesus is in the crowd also. This can give us encouragement to run well.



To run our race, we need to be in shape. You do not spend your time watching TV and then decide you are going to run a marathon and expect to do well. In our spiritual race it is sin that slows us down. We need to get rid of sin in our lives. We do that by repenting. The first step is to admit that we have sinned. It takes humility to admit that we have done wrong. We realize that God knows what we have done, but we still do not want to admit it. To be forgiven we need to admit that we have sinned. The second part is to ask for forgiveness. We cannot earn forgiveness, it is a gift. We have to ask for it. The third part of repentance is to work to not do it again. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us and we follow His lead. Just saying I am sorry does not cut it. Children will do that. They will say “I am sorry” after doing something wrong, but then they go right back and do it again. If we are really sorry then we will try not to do it again.



One other thing that is important in running is to look at the finish line. We need to know where we are going. There have been times in cross country races where some of the runners missed a sign and so they did not finish the race. We need to run towards the finish line. We need to go towards the line. A racer would not want to waste time going the wrong way. We need to concentrate on the finish line which is to be like Jesus. That is our goal in life. Anything that takes us away from that is sending us the wrong way. Concentrate on Jesus. Keep Him in our sight. The advantage is that not only is Jesus our finish line, but He has promised to be with us. He is helping us get to Him. He is not trying to get away from us. Let us strive to win our race.