- Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith (1-2)
 - 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
 - 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Therefore (1)
 - in view of all the examples of faith given in chapter 11
- since we are surrounded ... (1)
 - It is likely figurative rather than literal that those witnesses who live and died in faith are watching
 - We ought to act as though they are watching, cheering for us

- let us also lay aside ... (1)
 - -Whatever hinders living by faith
 - Runner would not want to carry extra weight in a race
- sin which clings so closely, (1)
 - –Literally, "standing around"
 - -Readily available

- Colossians 3:5-10
 - 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
 - 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.
 - 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

- Colossians 3:5-10
 - 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
 - Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
 - 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- run with endurance the race that is set before us (1)
 - without allowing ourselves to be hindered by any obstructions
 - —without giving out or fainting in the way.
 - Encouraged by the example of the multitudes who have run the same race before us
 - -persevere as they did to the end.

- looking to Jesus (2)
 - -Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Cor. 11:1)
 - –Jesus also endured, and was triumphant

- founder and perfecter of our faith (2)
 - –Not named in Chapter 11, but now the preeminent example
 - -founder author, source, beginning
 - -perfecter finish, complete
 - -"I am the Alpha and the Omega," (Rev. 1:8)
 - —no one before or since compares

- who for the joy that was set before him (2)
 - -"Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities." (Isaiah 53:11)

- endured the cross, despising the shame (2)
 - –Now, we cherish the old rugged cross.
 - -Then, it was dishonorable.
 - –A multitude of slaves, and robbers, and thieves, and rebels died on a cross, but have been erased from memory by one great sacrifice.

- and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (2)
 - Exalted to the highest place of dignity and honor
 - Therefore, amidst all the severe trials to which you are exposed on account of religion, patiently endure all
 - The glorious rewards, the happiness and the triumph of heaven, are before you."

- Do Not Grow Weary (3-4)
 - —3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
 - —4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

- Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself (3)
 - Think of His example
 - No opposition of sinners ever turned him from the way which he regarded as right;
 - no ridicule ever caused him to abandon any of his plans;
 - no argument, or expression of scorn, ever caused him for a moment to deviate from his course.

- so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (3)
 - Danger of becoming disheartened,
 worn out from opposition
 - Look to Jesus and think of his example

- In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (4)
 - Jesus is the example to keep in mind
 - Persevere through trials
 - There will be trials

- In your struggle against sin ... (4)
 - 1 Peter 4:12
 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

- In your struggle against sin ... (4)
 - -Revelation 20:4
 - ... Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God ...

- In your struggle against sin ... (4)
 - Matthew 14:10
 - He sent and had John beheaded in the prison,
 - Acts 12:2
 - He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

- In your struggle against sin ... (4)
 - -Ephesians 6:12
 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.
- 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

- 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
- 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

- 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?
- 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

The Value of Discipline

• 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- Quotation from Proverbs 3:11-12
- Many of us have had to discipline a child
 - Usually to correct bad behavior
 - -Intended for the good of the child
- Not disciplined? Illegitimate (8)

- Concerning Discipline of Children
 - -#1 Discipline has a purpose.
 - —#2 It is our own child we discipline, not another's child.
 - —#3 Child needs to know why they are being disciplined.

- Concerning Discipline of the Lord
 - -Psalm 94:12-13
 - 12 Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O Lord, and whom you teach out of your law, 13 to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked.

- Concerning Discipline of the Lord
 - —Are trials and persecution from the Lord?
 - -Job 1:12
 - And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

- Concerning Discipline of the Lord
 - God allowed Satan to afflict Job, but
 God did not cause it.
 - Discipline is not necessarily the same as punishment.
 - Discipline is intended for our good.
 - -Temptation vs. Testing!

- Genesis 22:1-2, 12
 - 1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
 - 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."
 - 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

- James 1:2-4
 - —2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds,
 - —3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
 - —4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- James 1:12-15
 - 12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
 - 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

- James 1:12-15
 - —14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
 - —15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- 1 Peter 3:13-18
 - —13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
 - —14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

- 1 Peter 3:13-18
 - —15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- 1 Peter 3:13-18
 - —16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
 - -<u>17</u> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- 1 Peter 3:13-18
 - -18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

The Value of Discipline

- but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (Heb. 12:10b)
 - Discipline for doing evil to bring repentance
 - Discipline for doing good produces patience, endurance

The Value of Discipline

- 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
 - 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

The Value of Discipline

- The Fruit of Discipline (Heb. 12:11)
 - For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,
- 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed

- 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
- 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

- 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.
- 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

- Therefore ...
 - Discipline is not easy
 - Two-a-day football practices
 - Military boot camp
 - But think of the peaceful fruit of righteousness
 - Lift your drooping hands

- make straight paths ...
 - —Straight = level
 - Remove obstacles
 - Lay aside every weight ... (1)
 - If you have a lameness (or weakness), need level path free of obstacles
 - Rom. 14:13

- Strive for peace with everyone
 - —Especially those who persecute you
 - -ls it easy?
 - -It is the mark of a true Christian.

- Romans 12:14-21
 - —14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
 - —15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
 - —16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

- Romans 12:14-21
 - 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
 - 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
 - 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

- Romans 12:14-21
 - —20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."
 - —21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Matthew 5:43-45
 - 43"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
 - 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
 - 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
 - Holiness, sanctification sameGreek word
 - –Set apart from the world
 - -We strive for holiness in behavior

- Hebrews 10:10, 14
 - —10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - —14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer.
 - Things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends.
 - A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose.

- See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God
 - —Pay close attention
 - To our selves
 - To our brothers and sisters
 - -Implied here, though not specified

- that no "root of bitterness" ...
 - -Deuteronomy 29:18
 - Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit

- that no "root of bitterness" ...
 - -Hebrews 3:12-13
 - 12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
 - 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- that no one is sexually immoral
 - Would spread corruption through the church
 - -Ephesians 5:3
 - But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

- Colossians 3:5
 - —Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
 - 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;
 - 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,
 - 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
 - —6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.
 - —7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
 - —8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

- unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal
 - –Unholy, profane
 - By word or deed, treating what is sacred with contempt
 - Having no reverence

- Genesis 27:30-38
 - —34 As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"
 - —38 Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

- A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken
- 18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
- 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

- A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken
- 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."
- 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

- You have not come to what may be touched – Mount Sinai, a physical presence
 - -Though there was an injunction against touching it (Exodus 19:12)

- a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet
 - Awesome sight and sound
 - Exodus 19:18-19)

- and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.
 - Exodus 20:18-19

- A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken
- For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."
 - the manner in which God communicated inspired a terror which they could not bear.

- A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken
- so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."
 - –Deuteronomy 9:19 speaks of the fear of Moses, but the occasion was the sin of Aaron and the people in making a golden calf.

- A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken
- 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
- 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

- 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- 25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

- Mount Zion
 - -Frequently used to refer to Jerusalem
 - –Site of Solomon's temple
 - Symbol of the dwelling place of God under 1st covenant
 - -Figuratively used of the real dwelling place of God under the 2nd covenant

- Revelation 21:2-3, 27
 - 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
 - 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- Luke 10:17,20
 - —<u>17</u> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"
 - —20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- Colossians 1:18
 - -18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- Hebrews 10:19-22
 - 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
 - 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
 - 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
 - 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Hebrews 9:15
 - -15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

- Hebrews 10:12-14
 - 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,
 - 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.
 - 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- Daniel 7:10-11
 - 9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.
 - 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

- Revelation 5:11-12
 - 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
 - 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- Mount Zion
 - -City of the living God Rev. 21:2
 - -The heavenly Jerusalem Rev. 21:2
 - -To God Rev. 21:3

- Mount Zion
 - —the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven
 - Colossians 1:18
 - Luke 10:20
 - Revelation 21:27

- Mount Zion
 - -the sprinkled blood ... Heb. 10:22
 - —to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant — Heb. 9:15
 - -the spirits of the righteous made perfect Heb. 10:14

- Mount Zion
 - innumerable angels in festal gathering
 - Daniel 7:10-11
 - Revelation 5:11-12

- Contrasts
 - -1st Covenant
 - Very physical awe, power, terror
 - Could not draw near to God
 - -2nd Covenant
 - No such terror in its coming
 - Known by Faith rather than sight
 - Dwell with God

- 25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.
- 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

- 27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.
- 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,
- 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

- See that you do not refuse him who is speaking
 - As they refused to listen to God at Sinai speaking through Moses.
 - In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.
 - The Gospel given to be preached.

- 25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.
- 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

- For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth
 - -Hebrews 10:28
 - Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

- much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.
 - -Hebrews 10:29
 - How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

- Hebrews 2:2-4
 - 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- At that time his voice shook the earth
 - —When he spoke at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:18)
 - But only in the vicinity of Mount Sinai

- "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."
 - Change in moral behavior and religion brought about by the Gospel, or
 - Phenomena in the heavens at the birth, the death,
 and the ascension of Christ, or
 - A way into heaven has been opened
 - See Matt. 27:51-53, Heb. 10:19-22

- Matthew 27:51-53
 - <u>51</u> And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.
 - 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,
 - 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

- Hebrews 10:19-22
 - 19Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
 - 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
 - 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

- Hebrews 10:19-22
 - 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- 27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.
- 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,
- 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

- "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.
 - Mount Sinai, the law of Moses, the old covenant (destruction of Jerusalem? Heb 10:37)
 - The Gospel, the new covenant, the heavenly kingdom

- let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken
 - A kingdom that is permanent and unchanging
 - -Matthew 16:18
 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- Daniel 7:13-14
 - 13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.
 - 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- let us offer to God acceptable worship,
 with reverence and awe,
 - -John 4:23-24
 - Romans 12:1-2

- John 4:23-24
 - 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
 - 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

- Romans 12:1-2
 - 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
 - 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- for our God is a consuming fire.
 - The same reverence and awe which God invoked with the first covenant is also to be given to him under the new covenant
 - We respect God's way rather than devise our own way.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
 - 5This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—
 - 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
 - 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
 - 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
 - —
 <u>9</u> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
 - 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.