

## The Way of the Cross

### Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup>Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

#### 1. SIN ALWAYS HINDERS US IN ACCOMPLISHING THE TASK GOD HAS FOR US.

*v. 1 "...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles..."*

- Unconfessed sin hinders our fellowship with God.

### Isaiah 59:1-2 (CEV)

*The Lord hasn't lost his powerful strength; he can still hear and answer prayers. <sup>2</sup>Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That's why he doesn't answer your prayers or let you see his face.*

- God provides a remedy to our predicament.

### 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- The Lord's Supper gives us opportunity to deal With our sins before we eat.

#### 2. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICIAL LIVING.

*v. 2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

- Jesus is our example, all other examples will eventually fail us.

### John 13:15 (NIV)

*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

### 1 Peter 2:21 (NIV)

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

- We must remember that the Cross of Christ completes our faith.

*v. 2b "...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame..."*

### Colossians 1:20 (NIV)

*... and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

### Colossians 2:14 (CEV)

*God wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law of Moses. He took them away and nailed them to the cross.*

- The Lord's Supper helps us to remember Jesus' death before we eat.

#### 3. WE LOOK TO JESUS FOR THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE.

*v. 3 "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

- God has designed us to continue with Him regardless of what may come.

### Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

- Jesus gave Himself for us so that we would not lose heart.

### 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV)

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

### James 5:8 (NCV)

*You, too, must be patient. Do not give up hope, because the Lord is coming soon.*

- We celebrate the Lord's Supper looking forward to his return.

**Because of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, we now have our faith and our hope set as we look for His return.**