

Intro

- ~ We've seen horses wear blinders. These blinders are also referred to as blinkers or winkers, and they're usually made of leather or plastic and they're attached to the horse headgear. They restrict the horse's vision, so that they can only see ahead of them
- ~ Blinkers are used to calm the horse down and realign its focus, so it can run its best race.
- ~ Many racehorse trainers believe that blinkers keep horses focused on what is in front, encouraging them to pay attention to the race rather than to distractions such as crowds. Additionally, driving horses commonly wear blinkers to keep them from being distracted or spooked, especially on crowded city streets.
- ~ Some say that blinders were invented when a preacher had a wager with one of his friends. The preacher bet that his horse could walk up the stairs in his home, which the horse did with no problem at all.
- ~ Just as a horse may wear blinders to keep them focused there's times when it would be profitable for us to put on blinders to keep us from being distracted
- ~ The author of Hebrews 12:2 gives the child of God some things to look at and it all pertains to Christ
- ~ These reasons give us a panorama of the life and ministry of Christ (These reasons to consider Christ are mirrored in Philippians 2:5-11
- ~ Instead of looking at self we look to Christ
- ~ As we run we're careful of the distractions of self. Other distractions are re self, others, problems, finances, worry, sin, self-pity. Looking not to self or others but to Christ
- ~ A hindrance to running our race many times involves looking at everything but Christ

Outline Why look to Jesus

- He's the captain
- He's the completer
- He's the endurer of cross
- He's the despiser of shame
- He's seated in heaven

Text

- ~ Look (aphorao) to view with undivided attention by looking away from every other object; to regard fixedly and earnestly, Looking away from everything which may distract.
- ~ There's 5 things to look at that keep us undistracted

1 He's the captain

- ~ Heb 2:10 says Jesus is the captain of our salvation
- ~ He's the leader and pioneer of our faith
- ~ He has this right because he procured our salvation
- ~ The Greek word (archegos) means chief, leader, prince, prime author, chief leader
 - It's translated as prince in Acts 3:15 and Acts 5:31
 - *Acts 3:14-16 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the **Prince of life**, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. 16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*
 - *Acts 5:30-31 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a **Prince and a Saviour**, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*
 - *Heb 2:9-11 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the **captain of their salvation** perfect through sufferings. 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*
- ~ All four uses of Archegos are used in with the idea of our salvation. He's the source of it
- ~ A funny example of this at work is Tony missed the driveway and drove down the hill and a few minutes later someone else did the same because they followed in his tracks

2 He's the completer

~ Finisher (teliotos) Completer. This word here comes from the (5048)

- In Jn 19:30 Jesus said it is finished. A similar word to our word here finisher. When Jesus said it is finished the Greek word is (5055 teleo) which means to end, complete, conclude, to discharge a debt.
- Christ was the finisher of redemption and here Christ is the finisher of our faith
- He's qualified to bring us to completion as he's already accomplished redemption

~ That Christ is the completer of our salvation implies two things

- We're completed positionally
- Christ is completing us experientially
- It's his desire to complete it experientially but we have to choose to allow him to do that

~ *Ps 138:8 The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.*

~ *Eph 4:11,12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

~ *Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

~ *1 Thess 5:23,24 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

~ We don't give up on the work God wants to do IN and TROUGH you

~ We love when we can complete a task. Christ has completed the task on the cross and will see it through

~ If you feel like there's no work of God going in in your life be encouraged God is for you and don't give up on God

~ I was doing a hospital visit the other day and I visited this person who was discouraged by things not going right in their life. They were discouraged by their walk with God. I told this person not to give up on God. God wants to work

~ One of the ways God is bringing us to completion is through suffering and trials because they mature and make us holy

In the same sense as our salvation Christ is captain and completer/pioneer and perfecter Christ is also the beginning and the end of all things

Rev 1:8 Alpha and Omega, beginning and the ending

Rev 1:11 Alpha and Omega, the first and the last

Rev 1:17 The first and the last

Rev 2:8 The first and the last

Rev 21:6 Alpha and Omega, beginning and the ending

Rev 22:13 Alpha and Omega, beginning and the ending and the first and the last

3 He's the endurer of cross (because of joy)

~ Hupomone = to stay under or undergo

~ Twice in our passage Christ is referred to as enduring. He endured the cross and the contradiction of sinners

~ How was Christ able to endure the cross – JOY

~ At the end of the race lay the joy "set before him"

~ Joy was the attitude and motivation of Christ to be able to endure

~ We run our race with endurance in Heb 12:1 and Christ endured his race with Joy

~ This speaks of the need for joy in enduring trials, suffering and difficulty

~ The word joy means cheerfulness, calm and delight

~ We know that Christ suffered physically but he also had joy

~ Think about how joy affects our attitude

~ Jn 15:11 Jesus spoke the word of comfort in the upper room discourse that his joy might remain in them and that their joy might be full

~ Jn 16:20-22

- V20 sorrow turns into joy
- V22 our hearts will rejoice when we see Christ and this joy no man can take from us

~ Jn 16:24 Jesus wants our joy to be full

~ Jn 17:13 Jesus spoke words so his joy would be fulfilled in us

~ In these passages Jesus wants our joy to be full. How is that possible because he endured the cross because of the joy before him

~ Most of the occurrences of this word endure (hupomone) are used of the Christian enduring

4 He's the despiser of shame

~ The shame is attached to the cross

~ Despise (2706 kataphroneo) to think against, disesteem

~ The cross at his time brought only shame (most shameful of deaths, "yea, the death of the cross" Php_2:8).

~ 1 Pet 2:23 *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously*

~ This was hostility from sinful people. These sinful people despised, rejected, accused, blamed, hated him

~ Barnes (Despising the shame) Disregarding the ignominy of such a mode of death. It is difficult for us now to realize the force of the expression, "enduring the shame of the cross," as it was understood in the time of the Saviour and the apostles. The views of the world have changed, and it is now difficult to divest the "cross" of the associations of honor and glory which the word suggests, so as to appreciate the ideas which encompassed it then. There is a degree of dishonor which we attach to the guillotine, but the ignominy of a death on the cross was greater than that; there is disgrace attached to the block, but the ignominy of the cross was greater than that; there is a much deeper infamy attached to the gallows, but the ignominy of the cross was greater than that. And that word - the cross - which when now proclaimed in the ears of the refined, the intelligent, and even the frivolous, excites an idea of honor, in the ears of the people of Athens, of Corinth, and of Rome, excited deeper disgust than the word "gallows" does with us - for it was regarded as the appropriate punishment of the most infamous of mankind.

~ The shame of being associated with the cross didn't phase Christ

~ We usually run from shame – but not Christ

~ Christ thought little of the shame and embarrassment associated with the cross because of the joy on the other side of suffering

5 He's seated in heaven

~ Because the work was finished and the Father was pleased with his accomplishment on the cross the Father gave him a seat of royalty. The NLT calls it a "seat of honor."

~ This mimics what Paul said in Philippians 2:9-11.

~ After the work of the cross was finished Christ ascended and sat down because the work was finished

~ When Jesus had accomplished redemption on the cross he said, "it is finished" (Jn 19:30)

~ The right hand of the throne of God is a place of honor and dignity

~ Verses on Christ being seated in the bible

- *Ps 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*
 - Christ being seated is until the Father makes his enemies his footstool
- *Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high*
 - Christ being seated took place after he purged our sins
- *Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*
 - Christ being seated is said in reference to the fact he is and the angels aren't
- *Heb 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens*
 - Christ being seated is contrasted to the OT high priest who never said down because his work wasn't finished
- *1 Pet 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*
 - Christ being seated took place after he ascended and all creation is subject to him

~ Christ in heaven is our advocate (1 Jn 2:1,2); intercedes (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25); mediator (1 Tim 2:5);

Conclusion

~ These first four verses of Hebrews 12 show us how to compete in the Christian life. We run to Christ. As we run to Christ we look to Christ. And as we run and look we consider Christ. The author has given us 5 reasons to look to Jesus
~ These are spiritual training verses. God wants to produce holiness and maturity in his children. When life and spiritual growth gets hard we're tempted to retreat, drop out and go awol on God. So, for that reason God uses spiritual training and discipline to bring us to maturity. He's teaching us to endure

~ You ever enjoy just sitting in the car, airplane, or bus and enjoy the scenery? The scenery is great looking at Christ