

Endurance:

See to it

Hebrews 12:15-17 ESV

ENDURING RUNNERS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

Hebrews 12:15 ESV See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God;

- Hebrews 3:12 ESV [12] Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
- Genesis 4:1-9 ESV [8] Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. [9] Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

ENDURING RUNNERS ENCOUNTER A DANGER

Hebrews 12:15-16 ESV 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; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

1) FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE GRACE OF GOD

DANGER! There may be people in this church who appear to be believers, who are not in the grace of God. This poses an obvious danger to them, and as we will see, a less evident danger to the church.

2) ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGS UP

Deuteronomy 29:16-20 ESV

DANGER! This person, who appears to be one of the community of faith and believes they are getting away with it, will be swept away and face judgment.

3) LIKE ESAU

- Sexual immorality = IDOLATRY - spiritually unfaithful or idolatrous
- Unholy = worldly

DANGER! There are people who by all appearances are God's children who nevertheless trade a life with God and God's people for things of the world.

ENDURING RUNNERS RECOGNIZE THE SYMPTOMS

- 1) A heart that stubbornly turns to idols

What is an idol?

- "Anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God"
 - "Anything you seek to give you what only God can give you"
 - "an idol is whatever you look to and say, in your heart of hearts, 'If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure.'"
- 2) Contempt for God's gifts

OWEN: The second evil to be watched against is "profaneness;" or that there be no profane person among them. ... one that despiseth, sets light by, or contemneth [contempts] sacred things. Such as mock at religion, or who lightly regard its promises and threatenings, who despise or neglect its worship, who speak irreverently of its concerns, we call profane persons; and such they are, and such the world is filled withal at this day. When men, from professors of religion, become despisers of and scoffers at it, their state is dangerous, if not irrecoverable.

Are you worried this might be you?

Do you disregard things of the faith easily and readily?

Do you choose insignificant things over things of faith?

Do you disregard things of the faith without a second thought?

Do you show no remorse when you turn to idols?

ENDURING RUNNERS ANTICIPATE THE CONSEQUENCES

Hebrews 12:15-17 ESV [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.