

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NKJV)

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Introduction

Am I running, walking, standing, stumbling, or quitting the race?

Background

- So Great a Cloud of Witnesses (v. 1a)
- It is composed of many, more than just the 18 specifically mentioned in Hebrews 11.
- That cloud includes great men and women of God who have come since Hebrews 11, known and unknown to history.
- **Heroes of faith in the past:** their faithfulness is a constant encouragement that surrounds us.

- These witnesses are not witnessing us as we conduct our lives. Instead, they are witnesses to us of faith and endurance in all they have lived and experienced.
- We do not struggle alone, and we are not the first to struggle with the problems we face.
- Others have run the race and won, and their witness stirs us to run and win also.

As believers of Christ, we need to run the race set by God before us:

I. Lay Aside

- A. Every weight that hinders us
- (v. 1b): these keep us from running effectively.
- Mind's thoughts no plans, selfcentered plans, "no one sees", bad past, busyness, "next time"
- Heart's desires no desires, selfcentered desires, materialistic
- 3. Mouth's words no words, negative words
- B. Sin that easily ensuares us
- (v. 1c): from ancient Greek word "euperistaton", which can be translated as "easily avoided", "admired", "ensnaring", or "dangerous".

- Mind's thoughts selfcenteredness, envy, laziness, doubts, pride, self-glory, idols
- 2. Heart's desires ungratefulness, love of money, greed, hatred, lust, unforgiveness
- 3. Mouth's words lies, gossips, "paninira", curses, broken promises, broken covenant

II. Run with Edurance

Endurance translates from the ancient Greek word "hupomone", which does not mean the patience which sits down and accepts things but the patience which masters them. It is a determination, unhurrying and yet undelaying, which goes steadily on and refuses to be deflected.

A. Our race is set by God before us. (v. 1d):

- Race, from ancient Greek word "agona", is a word used for conflict or struggle of many kinds.
- We must run this race, and it will involve effort and commitment.Being passive never runs or wins a race. God wants us to run the race and to finish it right.

Philippians 1:30

Having the same conflict which you

saw in me and now hear is in me.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

B. Run to get the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

Philippians 3:13-14

¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



nother opportunity has opened to win souls for Christ. And with a grateful heart, UCA teachers and staff warmly welcomed and assisted the students in their three-day retreat at UCF Mt. Tabor Church Re-Creation Center.

During the retreat, students were introduced in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ through the message shared by the pastors and workers of UCF. And as they continue to dwell in the presence of the Lord, they gladly lifted up to Him joyful praise and worship songs. Group sharing and devotions were also ways for the students to share their experiences and realizations during the retreat and to ask questions about God's Word.

Truly, God's grace is abundant. He continuously uses UCA as a gateway of evangelism for those He has called. We are forever grateful!

Gathering

Students arrived early in the UCA Campus, excitedly looking forward to the retreat-a once a year opportunity where students and teachers could gather in a vast greenery, away from the city where they could have a life-changing experience with the Lord.



The participants wait for their assigned transportation in the UCA Auditorium with their classmates.



PROVERBS 11:30 (NKJV)

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

students underwent a brief orientation on the house rules of the

area which was discussed by one of its staff. Afterwhich, they were divided into groups and given the goals of the retreat.

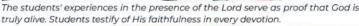
Devotion

There is no better way to start your day and end it than with the Word of God. Students devoted their time to know more about Jesus. They asked personal questions to their devotion leaders that will help them in their walk. In addition, they learned to always read their Bible and continue their daily devotion even after the retreat.























Through these gatherings, devotion leaders and students are given the opportunity to share their testimonies in the presence of the Lord and ask questions that could help them as they learn more about Jesus Christ.







With hearts yearning to experience the presence of the Lord in this year's retreat, the participants attentively listen in the sessions.



Students received the message of the Lord through the lives of Rev. Ryan Christian Tabay, Rev. Fidel Dillo, and Rev. Dr. James Sy. Through this, they understood the deeper meaning of having Jesus as their Lord and Savior.









The Lord reveals Himself to His children who are truly seeking Him and His Word. Through the UCF pastors that serve as mouthpiece of the Truth, students learn more about who Jesus Christ is—their personal Lord and Savior.

MATTHEW 28:19 (NKJV)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

January 8, 2022 UCF VOICE OF THE VISION | 3



Rev. Dr. James Sy leads the students in experiencing the Lord in their lives. After an amazing encounter with God, everyone sings with joy and thanksgiving.

JOHN 15:16 (NKJV)

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Cheering

With their wits and creativity, students performed their loudest yells and cheers. In an ample time, they danced and sang their group's cheer to prove that they are the best group.



Each team shows unity and camaraderie in their group cheering. The students also have the opportunity to get to know students from another grade levels.



As the last game on the first day of the retreat, they play the popular game "bahay, baboy, bagyo", making everyone more joyful and energetic.

DANIEL 12:3 (NKJV)

Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

January 8, 2023 UCF VOICE OF THE VISION | 5





MATTHEW 10:32-33 (NKJV)

³²⁴Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Photobooth

Students bonded with their classmates and friends while taking their best shots at the photobooth during their free time. This also serves as their souvenir to remember their wonderful experience during this retreat.

















their friends.







Inspite of the rainy weather, UCA successfully held the retreat with the students experiencing the goodness of the Lord throughout their stay. It was a productive and meaningful experience that they would always remember. Praise God for the lives of the UCA students who joined the retreat!

Teams also take group photos in diffrerent places of Mt. Tabor during their 'picture perfect' group game.

ROMANS 10:9 (NKJV)

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will

Kalaguan ng lupang pangako

A asungit man ang naging panahon dala ng pag-ulan buong linggo, patuloy pa rin ang pagsusumikap ng mga manggagawa upang maisagawa ang mga dapat gawin sa Mt. Tabor *Church Re-Creation Center*. Dahil sa gabay at pagbibigay ng karunungan at kalakasan ng Diyos sa Kaniyang mga anak ay nakakayang gumanap ng mga manggagawa at mga boluntaryong tumugon sa paglilingkod.

Ang mga pagtatanim, konstruksiyon at pangangalaga ay tuloy-tuloy na isinasagawa sa lugar ng mga *in-house trainee worker* at ilang boluntaryo. Ang itinatayong *mini hotel cabin* ay mayroon nang mga dibisyon na pader na naghahati sa bawat kwartong ginagawa. Ganoon din, sa ibaba ng ginawang bagong *gazebo*, ang kalalakihan ay patuloy din sa paggawa

ng bagong kwarto at banyo upang magamit ito ng mga dadalong bisita. Ang mga pananim din sa Mt. Tabor *Farm* ay malalago at malulusog dahil sa pag-aalaga ng mga manggagawa. Sa ngayon ay muli silang naglabas ng produkto mula sa kanilang mga sariwa at organikong pananim. Tunay nga na ang Diyos ang nagpapatubo sa bawat itinatanim at dinidiligan ng Kaniyang mga anak.

Dahil sa kanilang masigasig na pagganap sa bawat gawain ay naisasakatuparan ang paglago ng Mt. Tabor. Magmula noong simula ay nakita ang pagbabago ng lugar dahil sa mga manggagawang patuloy na gumaganap at sumusunod sa plano ng Diyos. Ang lahat ng papuri at luwalhati ay sa Diyos lamang nararapat!

Pag-ayos ng gazebo

Halos tapos na ang bagong gawang gazebo at handa na sa anomang gawain, gabi man o umaga. Nagamit na rin ito ng mga estudyante sa nakaraang retreat ng UCA. Samantala, ang unang palapag nito ay ginagawang private room na magiging kagamit-gamit din sa mga bibisita. Kasalukuyan din itong ginagawan ng sariling banyo.

Paggawa ng cabin

Naitayo na ang mga pader na magsisilbing dibisyon ng paunang apat na *mini hotel cabin* katabi ng *House of Joel.* Bagaman panahon ng tag-ulan, ang gawain ay ipinagpapatuloy ng mga manggagawa. Nakahanda na rin ang mga bakal, graba at semento para sa muling pag-usad ng proyekto.







Ang gazebo ay mayroon nang mga ilaw kaya't nagagamit na ito tuwing gabi. Mayroon na ring grass carpet na nagdagdag ng ganda rito at maaaring gamitin sa mga group activity.







Makikita na ang unti-unting nabubuong mga cabin. Tunay na nakakapanabik ang pagtatapos ng mga pasilidad na ito at ang paggamit dito ng mga bibisita.

GALATIANS 6:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁹For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Pagtanim ng gulay

Ang iba't ibang pananim sa Mt. Tabor Farm ay patuloy din sa paglago at pagyabong. May mga hanging plant na rin sa greenhouse na mainam sa paggamit ng malawak na espasyo nito. Ang ilang gulay naman ay tumubo na at ang ilan dito ay kasalukuyang ipinagbibili. Dahil sa natural na pagpapatubo rito, mas mainam ang mga ito sa ating kalusugan.

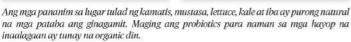






PROBIOTICS







Ang greenhouse ay punong-puno rin ng mga pananim. Maging ang itaas na espasyo ay napakikinabangan din para naman sa mga gulay na inilagay sa hanging plantbox.





BROCCOLI

KALE



KAMATIS

Paggamit sa lugar

Bago naman matapos ang taong 2022 ay nagamit ang Mt. Tabor bilang event place ng United Methodist Church (Southwest Cavite District) para sa kanilang *Christmas Institute*. Mahigit 130 na delegado ang masayang nagdaos ng kanilang programa noong Disyembre 27-30. Tunay na ang lugar na ito ay bukas para sa lahat.







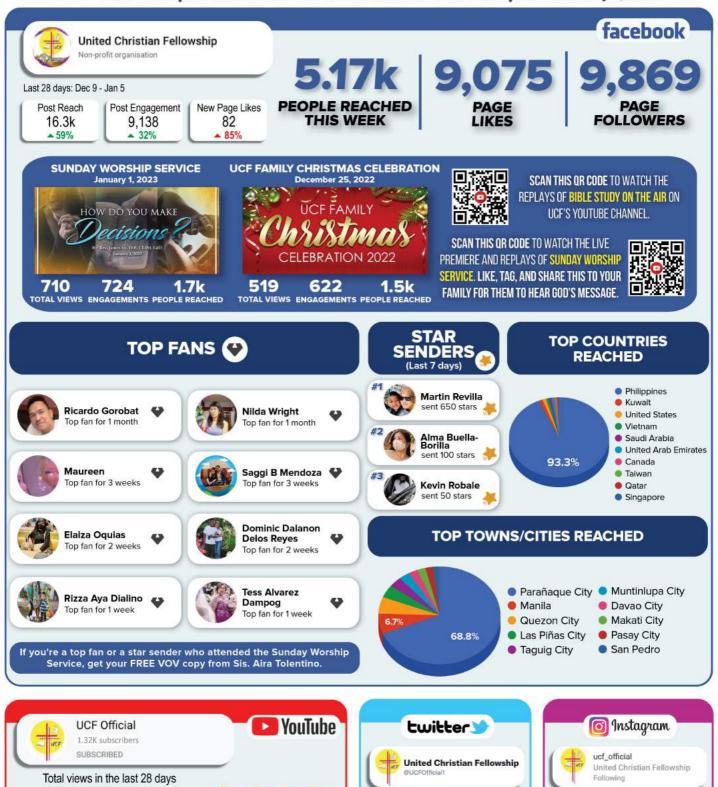
Iba't ibang aktibidad ang isinagawa sa maraming bahagi ng Mt. Tabor. Sa lawak ng lugar na ito, nasulit ng mga bisita ang mga pasilidad para sa kanilang programa.

ISAIAH 55:6 (NKJV)

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

January 8, 2023 UCF VOICE OF THE VISION | 9

UCF ONLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS UPDATE) As of January 7, 2023



Like, share, comment, and tag people. Let us proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through our UCF online programs.

FOLLOWERS

1.842

378

Tweet Impressions

Profile Visits

FOLLOWERS

239

53

Accounts Reached

Accounts Engaged

5.3k 1

526.0

Click SUBSCRIBE and hit the bell button to get

updated with the latest videos and replays of UCF Official.

Do not click 'Skip Ads' when watching.

SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribe

Views

Watch Time



Ang isang larawan ng madilim na bahagi ng mga tao ay ang paglalakbay patungo sa Promised Land. Lumabas ang mga Israelite sa pamumuno ni Moses papuntang Egypt. Sa kanilang paglalayag patungo sa Promised Land ay maraming nangyaring problema. Dahil ang mga tao sa Israel ay matitigas ang ulo at puro reklamo, dinala sila sa disyerto kung saan may kakapusan sa pagkain at tubig. Dumating sa punto na sila ay nagutom at nauhaw kung kaya't nagreklamo sila kay Moses. And what Moses did was he cried to God. Dinala sila sa isang balon na ang tawag ay Mara. Ang ibig sabihin ng Mara ay "mapait" kaya hindi nila puwedeng inumin ang tubig sa balong iyon. And so, Moses cried out to God, then He pointed Moses to a tree. Ang puno na iyon ang kinuha ni Moses at inihagis doon sa balon at naging matamis ang tubig.

WHY DO WE UNDERGO TRANSFORMATION, TESTING, AND TRIALS? ANG LAHAT NG ITO AY DINADAANAN NATIN UPANG TAYO AY LUMAKAS AT MAGING MATATAG SA ATING PANANAMPALATAYA.

ulo natin ang Ang katigasan ng nagdudulot problema. Kapag sinuway natin ang Diyos, marami ang mangyayari sa atin na hindi natin inaakala. Just like the Israelites, they murmured and they complained. Huwag tayong ganoon. When we keep on murmuring and complaining, we cannot go smoothly in our journey. Mabuti na lamang ay hindi nanatili na masadlak sa kasalanan ang mga tao. Dumating ang oras na ang Diyos din ang gumawa ng paraan kung paano ba makakalagpas ang tao sa kaniyang kasalanan. Siya rin ang nagbigay ng kaligtasan.

THE TRIALS THAT WE FACE ARE NOT TO HARM US. THOSE TRIALS ARE INTENDED TO MAKE US STRONG AND TO MAKE OUR FAITH STRONG.

The Father sent His Son. Pinadala Niya ang kaisa-isa Niyang Anak. It is said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Ang Diyos natin ay sadyang maibigin. Hindi Niya pinabayaan ang tao na masadlak sa kasalanan. Kung hindi Niya gagawin iyon, walang sinoman sa atin ang makakarating sa pinakamimithi nating buhay—buhay na walang hanggan. Jesus died for us. He redeemed us.

Noong tinanggap natin si Hesu Kristo bilang Panginoon at Tagapagligtas natin, mabuti ang ating kalagayan. Kaya nandito na tayo sa pangalawang yugto. Gustuhin man natin o hindi, lahat tayo ay dadanas ng pagsubok at paghihirap. Walang sinoman sa atin ang hindi dadaan diyan. Dahil si Hesus mismo ay naghirap, kabahagi din tayo sa Kaniyang paghihirap. magandang halimbawa diyan ay ang buhay ni Apostle Paul. mamamatay-tao siya, hanggang Dati. isang araw ay kinatagpo siya ng Panginoon. Mula noon ay nagkaroon ng pagbabago ang kaniyang buhay. Hindi na siya mamamatay-tao ng mga mananampalataya bagkus ay naging tagapangaral na siya ng Salita ng Divos.

Alam natin ang paghihirap na dinanas ni Apostle Paul. Kinulong siya at hindi lang basta ikinulong, kung hindi pati mga paa at kamay niya ay nakakadena at hinagupit ng latay sa kaniyang katawan. Kung ikaw ang nasa kaniyang situwasyon, magagawa mo pa kayang magpuri sa Panginoon? Kung titingnan natin ang buhay ni Paul, napakahirap nito. He almost died because of the hardships he went through. But he did not give up and he continued. Kahit nasa loob siya ng kulungan ay patuloy pa rin siya sa pangangaral ng Salita ng Diyos. Hindi siya nasiraan ng loob dahil sa kaniyang dinanas na hirap, kung hindi ay nagawa

niya pang magalak. Why do we undergo transformation, testing, and trials? Ang lahat ng ito ay dinadaanan natin upang tayo ay lumakas at maging matatag sa ating pananampalataya. Katulad na lamang ng isang ginto. Ang ginto ay dumadaan sa pinakamainit na apoy na kapag ito ay natunaw, lahat ng mga dumi ay naaalis, kaya nagiging puro ang ginto. Ganoon din tayong mga Kristiyano. Dumadaan tayo sa mga pagsubok at iba't ibang klase ng problema upang tayo ay lalong maging matatag at lalong lumago ang ating pananampalataya. That is why the trials that we face are not to harm us.

Those trials are intended to make us strong and to make our faith strong. Kapag ikaw ay isang Kristiyano, hindi ibig sabihin ay wala ka nang problema. Hindi ito ang ipinangako ng Panginoon. God promised not to forsake us and not to leave us.

KAPAG IKAW AY ISANG KRISTIYANO, HINDI IBIG SABIHIN AY WALA KA NANG PROBLEMA. HINDI ITO ANG IPINANGAKO NG PANGINOON. GOD PROMISED NOT TO FORSAKE US AND NOT TO LEAVE US.

> *Panuorin ang buong sermon sa UCF Official Facebook Page.



ROMANS 6:23 (NKJV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

January 8, 2023 UCF VOICE OF THE VISION | 11



LIFE THEN, LIFE NOW

NEW COVENANT

In the Old Testament, God declared to the people of Israel that He will make a new covenant with them and with the people of Judah (Jeremiah 31:31). He promised that it will be different from the old covenant that they have broken. The new covenant that God has promised was that He will put His law in their minds and write it on their hearts; and He will be their God and they shall be His people. They shall all know the Lord from the least of them to the greatest. And what all the people should be grateful for is that He will forgive their iniquity, and He will remember their sin no more (Jeremiah 31:2-34).

In the New Testament, in the Book of Matthew, Jesus was having a supper with His disciples as a celebration of the Passover feast. ²⁵And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins-²⁹But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29).

Jesus fulfilled the covenant God has made to the people of Israel, wherein He made His disciples remember the bread as His body and the wine which is the blood of the new covenant which will be sacrificed for the forgiveness of the sins of man. And God made salvation available for us that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved (Romans 10:9-10).

JOHN 3:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.



UNITED CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The School that Cares for Your Future











Complete K-12 Course

- Pre-school
- Elementary
- Junior High School
- Senior High School

Digital Platform

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE #IAMREADY4F2F

TUITION





RESERVE YOUR SEATS

ENROLLNOW

0917-100-7345 (Globe) 0918-985-1287 (Smart) www.ucaphil.online



. Make your days more productive as you learn different musical instruments that will surely be helpful in singing praises and worship to our Lord. Enhance your Godgiven gifts in music. Enroll in the UCF Music Clinic and learn how to play the piano, guitar, and drums!

For more details, contact Sonny Dwayne Emerald Costales (0967-442-0113).





Looking for natural and organic products? Look no further! Mt. Tabor Farm is here!



Azolla is a nutritious alternative feed for chickens, pigs, rabbits, fish, goats, ducks, and sheep.

Blackstrap Molasses is used commonly as animal feeds, fertilizer, compost, and rabbit probiotics



Rice Hull (Ipa) is a good organic material for soil mixture, beddings for farm animals, mulch for plants, etc.

Organic eggs are a healthier choice because they are laid by hens and ducks that are raised on organic feed.





Romaine and Eton Lettuce have Vitamin C which helps support the immune system. They are also high in antioxidants.

Probiotics are detoxifier and appetite booster for your pets or any kind of farm animals. They also help in preventing stress and heat stroke





Baby rabbits or kits are already available for home adoption. Pet rabbits and meat kits are for sale.

Rabbit manure is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, and many minerals that improve soil structure.





Organic soaps are made from natural ingredients and are free from any harmful chemicals.

Essential oil roller blends and pain relief rub will help soothe vou whenever you feel stressed





Sing and make music for the Lord with this collection of timeless worship songs.

> **Available for only** Php 100.00



For more details, contact John Cyr Castro (0956-168-4298).



For soaps, essential oil, and relief rub orders, contact Raena Christine Tabay (0956-903-5731). For vegetable, plant, and poultry orders, contact Angel Tolentino (0965-551-4575).

JAMES 5:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Running the race...

>> from page 1

III. Look unto Jesus

This means fixing our eyes on Jesus. We can only run the race as we look to Jesus and have our eyes locked on to Him. He is our focus, our inspiration, and our example.

A. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. (v. 2a)

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.



WHY READ THE BOOK OF MATTHEW?

The Book of Matthew is the

first book of the New Testament. In this Book, Matthew penned his account of Jesus's ministry to demonstrate that Jesus was and is the King, Israel's long-awaited Messiah and High Priest. Matthew's dedication to rooting the life of Jesus in the Old Testament elevated Jesus above the variety of false messiahs in a society where many Jews had claimed the role of Messiah for themselves. The apostle depicted our Lord in a way that emphasized His distinction from all other people who have ever walked this earth.

Jesus will return to Earth to establish His kingdom. May we remain faithful in Him until the day He comes that we may become partakers of Christ.

B. Jesus endured the hardship.

1. Jesus endured the cross. (v. 2b)

- a. Jesus kept His tongue.
- b. Jesus kept His course.
- c. Jesus kept His progress.
- d. Jesus kept His joy.
- e. Jesus kept His love.

2. Jesus despised the shame. (v. 2c)

a. Jesus bore a shameful accusation: blasphemy.

b. Jesus bore shameful mocking. c. Jesus bore shameful beating. d. Jesus wore a shameful crown. e. Jesus wore a shameful robe.

f. Jesus bore shameful mocking even as He prayed on the cross.



3. Jesus sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (v. 2d)

This speaks of Jesus' glorification.

b. The same promise of being glorified (though in a different sense) after our shame is true for the Christian.

C. Will make you not grow weary and lose heart. (v. 3b)

John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 Thessalonians 5:24

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Challenge

Year 2023 will be a year abounding in every good work. Don't limit God to do that in your life, family, soul-winning, and ministries.

Let us start or continue to run the race of faith set by God before us:

- 1. Laying aside unnecessary things: weights and sins
- 2. Running with endurance until you get the prize
- 3. Looking unto Jesus always



from the sermon as you seek God in your life.

What is God's message for you through the sermon?





