

# THE "HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN" SERIES

## ROMANS 12:1-2

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX-504 FEBRUARY 17, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### KEEPING YOUR FOCUS – PART 1

*A SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP, HOLINESS  
AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Endurance, Perseverance, Readiness**

WE'VE BEEN LEARNING THE ESSENTIALS ABOUT,  
"HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?"

#### Romans 12:1-2

I **beseech** (urge, personally challenge, plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** to God, *which is your reasonable service* :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

#### 2 Timothy 2:3-5

You therefore must endure hardship **as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. :4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. :5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned **unless he competes** according to the rules.

Keeping your eye **on the ball**  
is key if you're desiring to hit a **homerun**.

Keeping your eye **on the target**  
is required if you're going to hit the **bull's-eye**.

And keeping your eye **on the finish line**  
is a must if you intend to be **victorious**.

# “HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”

## KEEPING YOUR FOCUS

### 1.) Focus on enduring

#### 2 Timothy 2:3-4

You **therefore must endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4 No one **engaged** in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

#### endure hardship

**kakopaqe÷w kakopatheo**, *kak-op-ath-eh'-o*; from the same as 2552; to undergo the affliction, to hardening, the suffering & trouble.

#### John 16:33b

In the world you will have **tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

#### Acts 14:22

Now Paul and Barnabas went about **strengthening** the souls of the disciples, **exhorting** them to continue in the faith, and saying, “**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**”

## FOCUS ON ENDURING

### 1a.) Enduring the past

The Purpose of Boot Camp is a Pretty Amazing Thing;

Yes, it's to prepare you for the coming battles.  
But its more than that...

Boot camp begins by “**removing you from your past**”

#### 2 Timothy 2:4

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

a **new purpose** to this individuals life has been created.

You have new masters, new rules, new requirements, new mission.

**you're not the same person anymore**

as a Christian, my past now makes perfect sense to me.  
It was all a great training ground for this moment, right now,  
For tomorrow and for next week.

What if the Disciple Really, Really, Really Believed in Jesus,  
How different would their lives have been...

**Example;**

“jesus tells his disciple to get into the boat and go to the other side and he will meet them there... a storms hits and they believe in the power of the storm more than the word of Jesus” peter got the closest to getting it right, in reality, they should have taking turns wind surfing and water walking on the sea.

**Applied Bible 101**

**Philippians 3:12-14**

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. *(for, or purpose)* :13  
Brethren, 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, :14 **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God** in Christ Jesus.

**forgetting**

**ejpilanqažnomai epilanthanomai**, *ep-ee-lan-than'-om-ahee*  
to **willfully** neglet. to **intentionally** forget, to **remind** yourself to forget.

**reaching forward**

**ejekteižnomai epekteinomai**, *ep-ek-ti'-nom-ahee*;  
to lean over, to stretch, to strain one's self in a desired direction.

Let nothing or no one keep you from the goal.

(it's the exact same goal as all other true Christians)

**the upward call of God**

The Lord is now responsible for us. That said; we're to do things His way.

## “HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN” *KEEPING YOUR FOCUS*

### FOCUS ON ENDURING

#### 1b.) Enduring *the disappointments*

The next thing that Boot camp does  
is that it builds you up from the inside out.  
It convinces you that you can and will survive.

#### 2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore **must endure hardship as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. :4 No one **engaged** in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

### facing the disappointments

every Christian contends with pain, sorrow & suffering.  
The power lays with what we decide to do with our pain, sorrow & suffering,  
Which, when not dealt with rightly – **can lead to regret**

#### 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, :5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity (to arrest or to place under arrest) to the obedience of Christ,**

converting our disappointments to benefits

#### Romans 8:18,28,35-39

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us... :28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose... :35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... :37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. :38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor

life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### a word to the “Christian men”

There are far too many men today that attend a church just so they can whine, whimper, and complain about how rough and unfair their lives are. They gripe about their wives, their bosses, and the church they attend - - instead of focusing on becoming a real man of God, all this guy does is think about his feelings and what others think about him – “the whiners club”

#### 2 Timothy 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

## FOCUS ON ENDURING

### 1c.) Enduring the hardships

#### 2 Timothy 2:3-4

You **therefore must endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4 No one engaged in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who **enlisted** him as a soldier.

#### endure hardship

**kakopaqe÷w kakopatheo**, *kak-op-ath-eh'-o*; from the same as 2552; to undergo the affliction, to hardening, the suffering & trouble.

identifying the hardships – so we can embrace em’

only you can decide if you’re going to see  
Jesus Christ in your life-issues !

is there something going on in your life that’s causing you to question God or judge others. Are you tempted to worry or to jump up and fix the situation ?

Problems, Issues, Situations, Troubles, Sorrow...

#### James 1:2-5

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, :3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. :4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may

be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. :5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

## FOCUS ON ENDURING

### 1d.) Enduring **the life**

**“the life” being that of a Biblical Christian**  
we must endure **people** / the **world** / the **evil**

#### 2 Timothy 2:4

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself **with the affairs of this life**,  
that he may please him who enlisted him **as a soldier**.

For deployed soldiers, The DOD knows that letters from home  
**can be** a good thing... not all letters are an encouragement.

**“Dear John Letters” can kill - - the affairs of this life**

as Christians, we need to man-up  
to the spiritual realities of Christianity

the spiritual reality is - there's weirdos  
around us

#### Philippians 3:2-3

Beware of **dogs**, beware of **evil workers**, beware of the **mutilation!** :3 For we are the  
circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus,  
and have no confidence in the flesh,

Christian, listen to me...

It is of great importance that we stop playing silly little games with  
people who do not assist us in our walks with God.

Avoid carnal distractions.

Avoid Christians who are distractors.

Avoid conversations that lead nowhere and produce nothing.

Avoid collateral damage from other people's sins.

How do we do this? / how does this glorify Jesus  
Christ ?

**What heavenly or eternal value  
does that issue possess?**

If you're chasing your tail or someone else's,  
you're losing ground.

**Everything has a Heaven or Eternal Rating to it.**

**1 Corinthians 3:11-13**

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.  
:12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood,  
hay, straw, :13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because  
it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

**As Christians, Be Careful Who You Fellowship With.**

**Romans 16:17-18**

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in  
your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.  
:18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By  
smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

**Here's The Goal for us tonight...**

**Matthew 10:22**

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.  
But he who endures to the end will be saved.

**Matthew 24:11-13**

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. :12 And because  
lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. :13 But he who endures to  
the end shall be saved.

**Jude 3**

...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

(1)

pray and invite **people to accept** the Lord.

(2)

opportunity for **rededications** and recommitments

(3)

then have the ushers come forward to accept your offerings and worship

(4)

pray for the offering

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*End of Study*

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