

**Problem:**

getting sanctification wrong means either

no motivation for the Christian life comes from

- no focus on sanctification at all
- complacency and casualness - mistranslated triumphalism

or

the wrong motivation for the Christian life comes from

- putting sanctification in the wrong order
- running towards justification (sanctification before justification)
- looking to self (wrong confidence)
- Approaching God as a judge (fearful)
- Seeking His approval (legalism)
- Climbing Mt Sinai (empty religion)

But when we get it in the right order we realize that the Christian life is the passionate and confident pursuit of what is ours because of Christ.

The leads us to the main idea:

**Main Idea:**

The Christian life is nothing less than the passionate pursuit of a corporate holiness that has already been won for us by Christ

**Text:****Run with endurance towards maturity (sanctification)**

Heb. 12:1 ¶ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

*-do not be sluggish - Hebrews 6:11-12- you cannot live the Christian life on accident*

*-weight = literally body fat - 1 Cor 9:24-27*

*-set before us - Eph 2:10*

*->Here is the injunction to passionately pursue sanctification - we see that we cannot live the Christian life on accident and that we must lay aside the things that hinder us. —It's not so much about whether sanctification is a marathon or a sprint it is that it is a race meant to be run as if we actually want to win. This is normative faith as seen by those who came before. This is the Christian life.*

**Looking to Jesus who has already won**

Heb. 12:2 looking to Jesus, the **founder** and **perfecter** of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb. 12:3 ¶ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Heb. 12:4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

*-1 Pet 2:21-23 -our pioneer and example for us*

*-1 Pet 4:19 -we follow*

*-1 Pet 5:6-11 -perfecter -(10) He Himself will restore etc. -our confidence*

*->the motivation for us to run is Christ. We are confident He has won which ought to lead to courage and conviction not complacency. We look to Christ as our pioneer, who entrusted Himself to God, and we do the same, following in His steps with confidence that He is the perfecter of our faith as well.*

**Remembering God is our Father now**

Heb. 12:5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as **sons**?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,

nor be weary when reproved by him.

Heb. 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every **son** whom he receives.”

Heb. 12:7 ¶ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his **father** does not discipline?

Heb. 12:8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not **sons**.

Heb. 12:9 Besides this, we have had earthly **fathers** who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the **Father** of spirits and live?

Heb. 12:10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Heb. 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Heb. 12:12 ¶ Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees.

Heb. 12:13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

*discipline of the Lord looks like this - Deut 8:1-5 - brings holiness  
(Romans 8:28-31- for our good; rev 3:19 - because He loves us)*

*->when the Christian life gets hard we are often surprised - we don't know how to understand it and so we become either disengaged or discouraged. To motivate us we often work for what is ours already - the approval of God. Here the idea is that God's discipline -difficulty in the Christian life- is good for us to make us holy, and mature. C. S. Lewis, in his book 'The Problem of Pain', encapsulates it vividly. 'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain, it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.'*

### **Recognizing we are part of His family now**

Heb. 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Heb. 12:15 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;

Heb. 12:16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. **(for a girl or a guy or a job)**

Heb. 12:17 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.

*-corporate holiness - 1 Cor 5 ->you are your brothers keeper!!!  
1 Cor 10:23-24; 12:7 - mutual upbuilding - common good -body, bride, building  
Hebrews 10:24-25 - Church is a big deal  
-root of bitterness - Deut 29:18 - turning away from God*

*->peace and holiness has in view the idea of our corporate sanctification. together we are to reach maturity as His family. we are a body, the bride and the building of Christ. we are our brother's keeper. we don't want to see each other sell out for a guy or a girl or a job but we want to encourage each other to grow in holiness, feeling the weight of one another's glory.*

### **Realizing we are climbing Mt Zion not Mt Sinai**

Heb. 12:18 ¶ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest

Heb. 12:19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

Heb. 12:20 For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.”

Heb. 12:21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”

Heb. 12:22 **But you have come to** Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

Heb. 12:23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

Heb. 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

2 Cor 3:4-18 - being saved

->we have not been brought to the Law or to legalism but to grace and sanctification. Our corporate maturity will not come through the law. We are not pursuing justification but a prize that is ours already - we have been given a better promise a better covenant, a better priest etc than the mosaic system. As justified people, as saints, we are pursuing sanctification with the guarantee of glorification. -read 2 Cor 3:4-18.

### **Are you listening?**

Heb. 12:25 ¶ **See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.** For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

Heb. 12:26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

Heb. 12:27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

Heb. 12:28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God **acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe,

Heb. 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire. (this is the God we love - He is holy)

**Implication** Do not refuse Him who is speaking (25-27) -> **He is talking to you!!!**

Heb 3:7 (Ps 95:7-11) Holy Spirit

Heb 10:5 (Ps 40:6) -Christ

Heb 10:15 (Jer 31:33) -Holy Spirit - 4:12-13

Heb 2:1-3 - Do not neglect such a great salvation = do not neglect such a great sanctification

**Application** - Romans 12:1-2; 6:1-19 - acceptable worship

**Action** - Col 3:1-4, 17 -what do you do when things are hard? look up

*the main idea here is encompassed in Hebrews 2:3 -do not neglect such a great salvation -in this light means don't neglect such a great sanctification. confidence is not the same as complacency. This is thee ONLY way to God. Our God is not only love He is a consuming fire. We must approach Him on His terms. We see encouragement for the discouraged and warning for the presumptuous here.*

*Again, the **Main Idea is that -The Christian life is nothing less than the passionate pursuit of a corporate holiness that has already been won for us by Christ***

### **Application:**

Col 3:1-4, 17 - When things are hard - Look up

read and discuss the following articles

how does this message interact with this article (hint look at the outline)

<http://sharperiron.org/article/sanctification-and-giving>

<http://www.challies.com/christian-living/sanctification-is-a-community-project>

<http://gospelforlife.org/articles/2012/4/23/the-role-of-the-corporate-body-in-sanctification-part-1.html>