

Memorial Day - 2015
A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES
Hebrews 12:1-3

The key to Memorial Day is remembering and the author of the Book of Hebrews calls us in the 12th chapter to remember that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. The word, "Therefore," is intentionally calling our attention back to the heroes of the faith who are mentioned in the previous verses, the 11th chapter, the great "Faith Chapter" of the Bible.

The secret of living a life that makes a difference is realizing that it is not what you do for yourself but rather it is what you allow God to do for others through you. This is how we make a difference in this world and how we make a lasting impact.

1. The Christian life is a race we must run.
2. To run the Christian race we must get into shape and stay in shape.
3. To run the Christian race we must run with endurance the course set before us.
4. The encouragement to keep running comes from those who have run before us, but primarily from Jesus Himself.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus requires taking our eyes off of ourselves.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus requires trusting all that He is for us.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus means trusting Him when others wrong us.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus is the key to not grow weary and lose heart.

Conclusion:

The heroes of the "Hall of Faith" are not to be the center of our attention. They were all flawed men and women who were commended for their trust in God.

It is Jesus alone on whom our eyes are to be fixed. He alone can save and sustain us. He is not only our Rewarder but our great Reward. Let us look to Him, and let us run the race before us with endurance.

You can't run the race if you've never entered it. If you've never put your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you aren't even in the race. If you don't enter the race and run with endurance, you won't get the prize.