

Open to Hebrews 12:2

Question: Which is easier: To live for Jesus or to die for Jesus?

Therefore 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,

looking 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.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)



Question: Which is easier: To live for Jesus or to die for Jesus?

- Maybe not a question that is easy

Think of Fred Williams, many others who have given lives for Christ.

Is it easier to surrender life in a moment...or to live surrender

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Thing about dying...one time thing

- Once and it is over

Living...takes time, long endurance in same direction

I beseech 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.

Romans 12:1

Again...note Living Sacrifice

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

3

For you have need of endurance...

- 1) Endure by Seeing Examples 12:1a
- 2) Endure by Seeing the Race 12:1b
- 3) Endure by Looking unto Jesus' Enabling 12:2a
- 4) Endure by Looking unto Jesus' Example 12:2b

Heb 10:36-39

Issue is key...Need is real

How is this "need" met in you?

- This what Heb 12 tell us
 - Tells us how this need is met
- 1) **By Examples – Heb 11**
 - Examples of others can, and should strengthen our endurance
 - 2) **By Seeing the Race**
 - Understanding in a race
 - Intentionally running without hindrances of weights and sin
 - 3) **By looking unto Jesus' enabling**
 - Last week – His sovereign work
 - He started, finishes in us
 - 4) **By looking unto Jesus' example**
 - Comes back to example, but now looking at Jesus – highest example

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

4

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.



1 Corinthians 11:1

We are called to imitate Christ

Other examples are good, but only in that they point us to Christ (Heb 12:1)

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5

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps



1 Peter 2:21

Let us an example...to walk in His steps

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

6

For I have given you an example,
that you should do as I have done
to you.



John 13:15

Given us an example...

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7

Jesus saidYou follow Me.”



John 21:22

The call, over and over, is this, follow Him, follow Christ

**Jesus is an example for us
Jesus is the best example for us**

Ask you...is He to you?

- Talk about me. Love Jesus!
- For years, struggled with this a little. Love Him...but He as an example to me....struggled
- But God really opened up my small mind in a way that helped...maybe help you

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8

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.



Philippians 2:5-7

See here Jesus becoming a man

Huge verse....hard to understand

Let me give it to you in the amplified translation (next two slides)

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9

Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained,



Philippians 2:5-7

He is God, always was, always will be

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

10

But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.



Philippians 2:5-7

Stripped Himself of privileges

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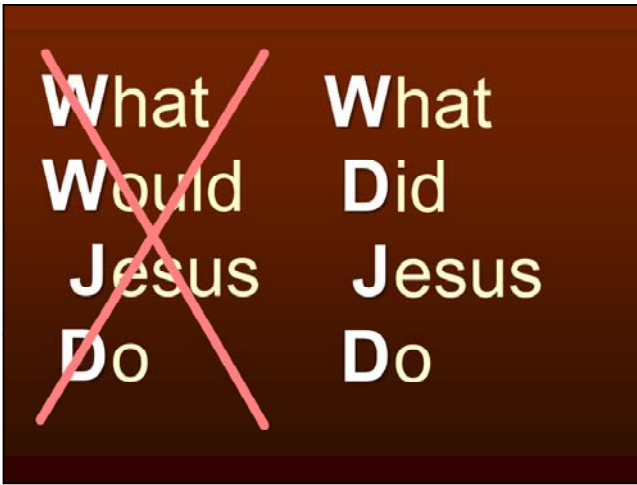
How do we understand this
Jesus being fully God and man

- People have struggled with for the entire last 2,000 years
- Tend to gravitate to one or the other
 - Seeing Him as God, not man
 - Seeing Him as man, not God
 - Issue is that it is both...how

Do this with me (done before)

- Close eyes, keep closed, look around, touch chair before you
- You have the power of sight, but for a few moments – chosen to lay aside that privilege
- If you could willfully keep doing that for an hour, day, year, years – you would live the life of a blind person.
- That is what Jesus did – had, always had the privilege of being God. But laid that aside
- Fully lived as a man
- All that He did, did by Spirit
- Thus...Jesus is example to us

12



Is this the WWJD thing?
 You know what that is right
 What Would Jesus Do
 Is this asking that question?

Maybe...in part – dangerous
 WWJD forces us to imagine what we
 think Jesus would do. Dangerous
 because opinion

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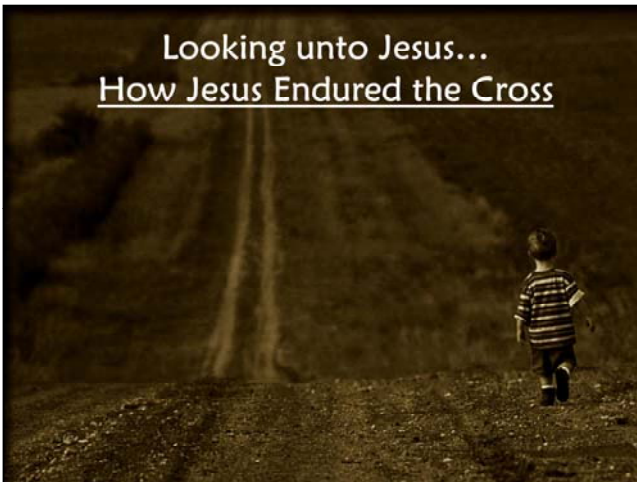
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Instead, this is WDJJ
 What Did Jesus DO

Look at Jesus, learn from what He
 did.

Instead of bringing Him into our
 world, see us in His, see Him live
 and see how we would handle



Again – context...endurance

- How do you and I endure
- Calling us to see Jesus...
- How He endured the Cross

Consider for a moment

- Is this the moment of the cross?
- Yes...but more...life
- Calling us to a life, daily with same
 attitude

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

Then He said to them all,
"If anyone desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily,
and follow Me."

Luke 9:23

Notice– if we want to follow Him

- He as our example...He is

Then – take up cross

- What Jesus did at Cross, we do
- Not dying...but living

Doing this daily

- What we see in Jesus facing the cross, is how we are to live

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15

Looking unto Jesus... How Jesus Endured the Cross

1) Jesus endured for Joy before Him

1st Key – Jesus endured cross for the joy set before Him

- What was that joy?
- Actually a debate about...
- Look at John 17 with me

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

16

v.1 – Joy of glorifying God
v.4 – Joy of obedience - finished work
v.5 – Joy of glory with God
v.23-Joy of our oneness with Him, God
v.24–Joy of us being with Him in glory



John 17

Notice what Jesus says about what He is looking forward to

Jesus joy, is all the above – what motivated the cross is this.

- Looking forward to all that eternity would be, have

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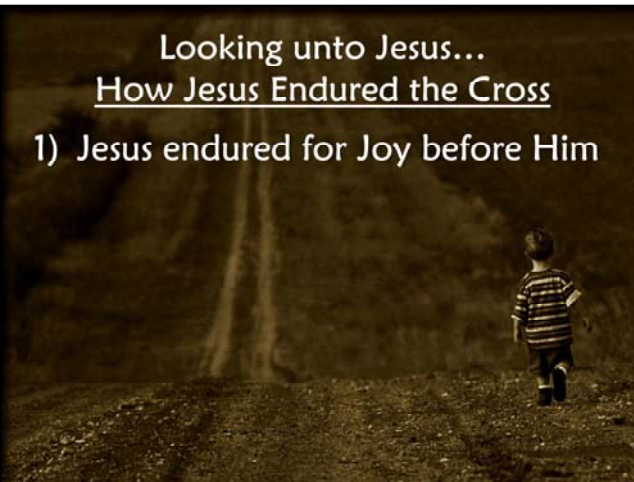
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17

Looking unto Jesus...
How Jesus Endured the Cross

1) Jesus endured for Joy before Him



Point – as we see Jesus doing this, as we see how He did...we do

It is right, for us as Christians, to be motivated in the present, by looking to the future

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18

But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.



Acts 20:24

Notice...joy before Him

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19

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.



Romans 8:18

What is coming, makes everything here seem small

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

20

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.



1Thess 2:19-20

Notice – our crown, reward, will be those we impacted for eternity

Jesus had this joy...so do we

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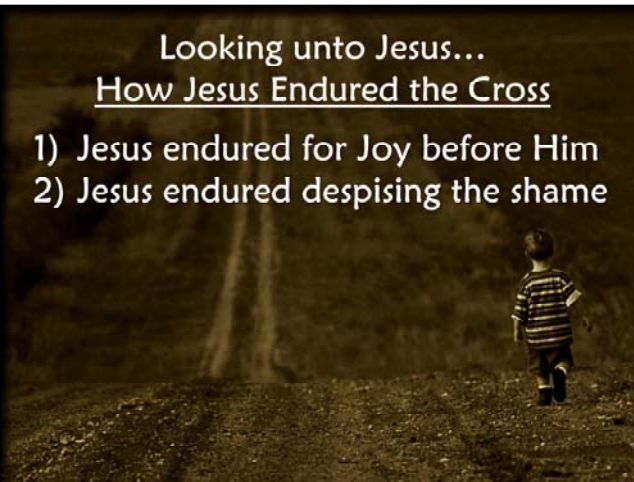
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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

21

Looking unto Jesus...
How Jesus Endured the Cross

- 1) Jesus endured for Joy before Him
- 2) Jesus endured despising the shame



Second key – Jesus despised shame

- Simple idea...but important.
- Jesus was not oblivious to the pain, humiliation, wrongness of the cross. He saw it. He saw it clearly – despised it, looked on it as the low thing that it is.

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

22

Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”



John 19:10-11

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Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”

Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.



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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

Jesus knew, saw God’s sovereignty,
we talked about this last week

24

Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

John 19:10-11

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

25

Looking unto Jesus... How Jesus Endured the Cross

- 1) Jesus endured for Joy before Him
- 2) Jesus endured despising the shame
- 3) Jesus endured victoriously
 - Rest, sitting down
 - Relationship with Father
 - Reward – finished work
 - Rule- reigning

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

But seeing God's sovereignty does not take away responsibility. Jesus saw what people did, it being wrong, their sin

Not bad, good to see wrong in the present...but in light of future

Third key – Jesus was victorious
Note His rest, relationship, reward, rule – amazing

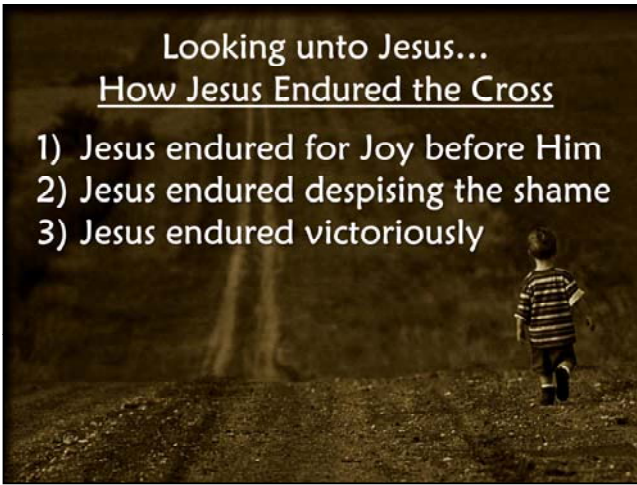
These things are ours, the victorious Christian has these.

To see Jesus in this way...should move us

26

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How Jesus Endured the Cross

- 1) Jesus endured for Joy before Him
- 2) Jesus endured despising the shame
- 3) Jesus endured victoriously



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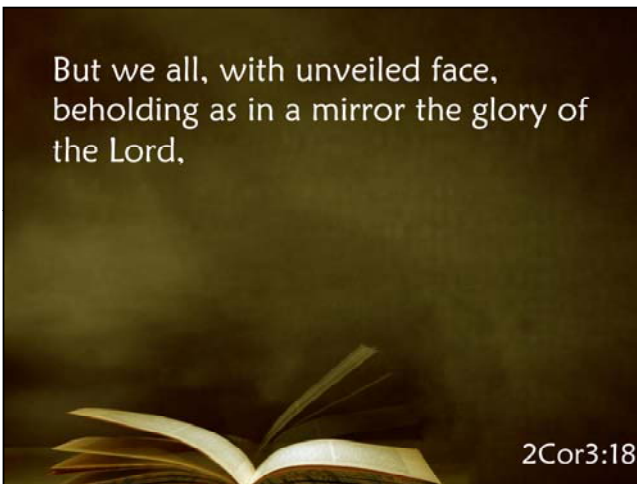
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These things are ours, the victorious Christian has these.

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27

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,



Therefore 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,

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

We have access to see God in Jesus, yet limited, mirror

28

But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory of
the Lord, are being transformed into
the same image from glory to glory,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2Cor3:18

As we see Him...we are changed

Let me give this to you in the
amplified translation

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

29

And all of us, as with unveiled face,
[because we] continued to behold
[in the Word of God] as in a mirror
the glory of the Lord

2Cor3:18-Amp

In the word – not our imagination,
not WWJD, but WDJJ
Called to look on Jesus – see Him,
today is an invitation to a place of
great strength of endurance

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a
cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the
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30

And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Spirit of the Lord.

2Cor3:18-Amp

As we see Him...we are changed

There is a supernatural wonderful thing here....

- The encouragement found in looking at Jesus is natural...and supernatural

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31



Today...want to call you to see Jesus, specifically by taking communion.

Seeing Bread – willing humbling
Seeing blood – willing surrender
Seeing victory – eternity

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(Hebrews 12:1-2)

32

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Cor 11:26

Do **This** to remember Me!



We have access to see God in Jesus,
yet limited, mirror

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