



Weights and the World

Hebrews 12:1-4

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- “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, 2 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. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”

Weights Or Sins?

- I believe more Christians will be lost because they are sidetracked by weights than by succumbing to sin.
- Many Christians who leave the Lord, do so without realizing it is happening.
- They become so preoccupied with neutral, material matters that they gradually allow them to crowd out their service to God.

Weights Or Sins?

- Weights are not necessarily sins.
 - Heb. 12:1 - “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.”

Weights Or Sins?

- “Christians, professing to go to heaven, must throw aside everything that might hinder them in their Christian race. Whatever weighs down our hearts or affections to earth and sense is to be carefully avoided; for no man, with the love of the world in his heart, can ever reach the kingdom of heaven.”
(Adam Clarke Commentary on Hebrews)
- Weights are things that are morally neutral, but when emphasized at a level equal to or greater than things that are morally good, they become weights that hinder our pursuit of a home in heaven.

Weights Or Sins?

- 1Peter 1:13 - “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
- Luke 21:34-36 - “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Lay Aside Your Weights Or Your Home In Heaven?

- Heaven and this world are not the same place or even on the same road. One must turn his back on the world if he is to face toward Heaven.
 - Matt. 6:19-34
- It becomes a question about whom we trust. Do we trust God to care for our physical needs or would we rather trust ourselves?
 - Isa. 30:8-16

Lay Aside Your Weights Or Your Home In Heaven?

- Rom. 8:4-8 - “The righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Lay Aside Your Weights Or Your Home In Heaven?

- Phil. 3:18-20 - “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Lay Aside Your Weights

- When the Bible speaks of “the world” it refers to more than just sin. The world is the physical realm in which we live.
 - 2Cor. 4:17-18 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Lay Aside Your Weights

- Loving the world does not refer to just loving sin.
 - 1John 2:15 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
- To love this world is to place a high value on earthly life.
 - 2Tim. 4:10 - “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.”

Lay Aside Your Weights

- To love this world is to place a high value on earthly things.
 - 1Tim. 6:6-8 - “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

Lay Aside Your Weights

- When one becomes a Christian, he is a new creature.
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
 - Rom. 6:4 - “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
 - Rom. 12:2 - “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.”

Lay Aside Your Weights

- Col. 3:1 - “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”
- 2Peter 3:13 - “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”
- Phil. 3:20 - “For our citizenship is in heaven...”
- 1Peter 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Weights and the World

- Our challenge as Christians is to become something noticeably different from people who have chosen the world.
 - Eph. 4:20-24 - “But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Weights and the World

- We are not living for the now, but for eternity. We give the first fruits of our strength and resources for our home in heaven, not for our things on earth.
 - Acts 4:32 - “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.”
 - Matt. 6:19-20 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”