

**HEBREWS 12 SEVEN RACE
RUNNERS INTRODUCTION**

[1] THE COURSE OF THIS RACE 2 Tim 4:7

- A. Designed by God the Father**
- B. Directed by God the Holy Spirit**
- C. Delivered through God the Son**
- D. Described in God's Holy Word**

**[2] THE CONTESTANTS IN THIS RACE
Hebrews 12:1 "let US run"**

- A. Believers of all ages**
- B. Viewed by three worlds**
- C. Different people – Distinct personalities**

**[3] THE CROWNS DELIVERED FOR THIS
RACE 2 Tim 4:8**

- A. To be won by the runners 1 Cor 9:24-25**
- B. Given at The Judgment seat of Christ
2 Cor 5:10**
- C. Guarded with diligence Rev 3:11**
- D. Desired for His Glory Rev 4:10**

**[I] THE INCEPTION INTO THIS RACE Heb 10:38
"the just shall live by faith" Only found four times**

- 1. This inception is by special arrangement Heb 11:6**
- 2. This inception is into a spiritual arena Heb 6:9**
- 3. This inception has specific aspects**

Divine choice of God

Direct choice of God

Distinguished choice of God

**[II] THE INTERFERENCE TO RUNNING THIS
RACE Hebrews 12:1 "every weight and sin"**

1. Personal weights hinder the running in this race

**Influence of the world – family – friends – finances
etc**

Indulgence in the world – pleasures of the world

2. Private sins hinder the running in this race

**Sins of omission and commission – also willful
disobedience**

**3. Problems from the past – as well as the present
can hinder**

**[III] THE INSPIRATION TO RUN THIS RACE
Hebrews 12:2**

"looking unto Him" He is

- A. The perfect man**
- B. The perfect God**

**Consider WHO HE IS WHERE HE IS WHAT
HE HAS DONE**

**[1] Defeated the devil [2] Defied the flesh –
lust thereof**

[3] Delivered salvation for all who accept

SEVEN RACE RUNNERS

Hebrews 12

Runner # 1

THE DEFICIENCY DISEASED RUNNER

Hebrews 12:12

- 1. Definition of the Title** **A disease caused by diet that lacks nutrition**
Improper eating habits... Spiritual deficient diet!
- 2. Description of this Trouble** **Weakness – lack of energy – lost desire**
- 3. Disaster of this Tragedy** **Fails to mature properly – remains childish**

[I] THE CHECK UP

EXAMINATION

- 1. This examination must be desired by the patient**
- 2. Must be conducted by a qualified person**
- 3. Must result in a diagnosis**

[II] THE COMPLICATIONS OBSERVATIONS

EXTERNAL

“hands which hang down and feeble knees”

Hands have to do with work

Knees have to do with walk

- 1. Overcome by fatigue – Tired**
- 2. Overcast by fear – Somewhat like a giant black cloud hanging over us**
- 3. Overtaken by faults – present faults in life styles**
- 4. Ousted from failures – past failure destroying present faithfulness**

[III] THE CURE

EXTREME MEASURES

“lift up the hands”
helpful and humbling

A lift up can be

- 1. A proper diet is prescribed** **Its amazing what a few good meals can do**
- 2. A patient instruction in health foods will be helpful**
- 3. A probationary period is recommended**

PHYSICIANS RECOMMEND A PERIOD OF TIME TO ALLOW THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS TO WORK – Sometimes it just takes time.....

To build spiritual strength – Strength to run the race before us....

Hebrews 12 # 3 THE DEFORMED RUNNER 12:13

A. Definition of Title Deformity is sometimes due to the aspect of

birth defect - Birth defects are serious...

B. Description of the Trouble "lame" lack of strength. Unable to walk

straight --- sometimes unable to walk upright.

C. Disaster of the Tragedy Can't stand up - Not able to walk, least of

all be able to run..... Unable to run the race of faith

Birth defect - Truly being saved!

[I] HIS PREDICAMENT His Situation

1. Lame because of Entanglement with Sin

We put labels on sin - big sins - little sins - some are worse -

Terrible sins - Unforgivable sins - But actually sin is sin.....

2. Lame because of Entrapment of Satan

Being unaware of the devices of Satan...

Unfamiliar with his

tactics - his methods of temptation... etc

3. Lame because of the Effects of sin Gal 6:7

- 8

Sin leaves its mark - Sin has an effect - It contaminates...

A. The crimes of sins effects

B. The cruelty of sins effects

C. The coldness of sins effects

[II] HIS PRIVILEGE His Sanctification

Matthew 12:20 "a bruised reed, He will not break and a smoking

flax, He will not quench" He is

Privileged with

1. The Same Divine Call as others

Romans 10:13 Acts 10:34-35

2. The Same Definite Challenge

The choice is there - Heaven or Hell - Everyone has the choice..

3. The Same Desirable Crowns

Not for our ability - But for our availability

Not according to my greatness but by His

grace

Not by my power but according to His good pleasure

Not by my bigness but by His Blood

[III] HIS PROTECTION His Sanction - Satisfaction

We are protected - Kept by the power of God...

This man could have had that same protection!

Protected by Christ The Sovereign God ---

True - we have predicaments situations

But we have privileges sanctification is available

Then we have protection satisfaction

Sanctions -

From a deformed runner to a reformed runner!!!!!!!!!!

Hebrews 12 # 4 Hebrews 12:14 THE DECEIVED RUNNER

A. It would appear that this runner is SECURELY SAVED

The unsaved cannot follow this type of peace
They cannot relate with holiness

B. But there is a SERIOUS STATEMENT

"none shall see the Lord" This is usually used in future tense

However in this instance it could also refer to present tense

One will not 'see Christ' in this present life apart from holiness

C. There is also a SAD SITUATION Galatians 6:6-7

This was sent to a church of supposed believers!

The sad situation is that some truly saved people are not

living for Christ and reaping what they sow....Due to

being deceived into thinking they are correct.....

[I] THE AREAS OF DECEPTION Leading Astray
"follow peace and holiness" Deception then gets in....

1. Deceived in the **PURPOSE** of a Christian Life
Eph 5:25-27

2. Deceived in the **PRACTICE** of a Christian Life
2 Cor 5:15

3. Deceived in the **PRINCIPLES** of a Christian Life
Rom 12"1-2

Too many "Christians" are deceived in the true concept of

[1] Salvation [2] Sanctification [3] Separation

[4] Second Coming [5] Supplication

[II] THE AFTER - MATH OF DECEPTION Learning Awareness

"None shall see the Lord" Those

1. Blinded through Religion 2 Cor 4:3-5

2. Blighted through Rituals Locked in traditions

3. Blocked through Rejections

[III] THE ANSWER FOR THE DECEIVED RUNNER

Loving Attributes

There is a hope ONE hope BUT more than one step involved

1. Recognize our Condition

A person must begin at this step...

2. Repent Completely of our Condition

Repentance means a complete turn around

Repentance that is directed through the

Scriptures

Drawn from the conviction of the Holy Spirit

3. Receive Christ and His Forgiveness - His Sacrifice for our sin

Too many are content to remain deceived!!!

Hebrews 12 # 5 12:15a The Discouraged Runner

A. The Popularity of this Runner

B. The Most Perceivable [on the brink of disaster]

C. And probably the Most Pathetic of all

To avoid becoming discouraged one must turn to and

trust in the "grace" of God.

[I] IN THE BEGINNING HE FAILED TO HEED THE TEACHINGS OF GRACE Titus 2:11-12

This has to do with RECEIVING

Receiving the teachings of Grace

1. Grace that ELEVATES Lifts one up

**2. Grace that EDUCATES Learning more
 Teaches and Trains**

3. Grace that ENABLES Justification &

Sanctification

Justification is what God declares us to be

Sanctification is His enabling us to actually be what He

has declared us to be

[II] IN THE BATTLE HE FAILED TO TAP INTO THE RESOURCES OF GRACE Hebrews 4:16

This has to do with RESPONDING

How we react in battle makes a lot of difference

1. Grace has the power to Sustain us

"we are kept by the power of God"

2. Grace's presence gives us Satisfaction

In the midst of fear and frustration - GRACE!

3. Grace's providence provides or gives us our

Supply

God will take care of us....!!

[III] IN THE BITTER STRUGGLES HE FAILED TO TRUST GRACE'S TOTAL SUFFICIENCY

**Hebrews 12:28 This has to do with RELYING
Help to overcome - to endure -**

**1. There is a DIM - OUT Involved here
A dimness concerning God.... When one can't see God**

due to the struggles that are overwhelming..

2. The DIMENSION of these struggles.....

The size of our struggles always loom large

3. Then there can be the DIMINISHING of these struggles

In the Lime - Light of God's Grace our struggles seem

to disappear or at the least they diminish in size

Discouragement can be disastrous - BUT we can find

encouragement through the Divine Grace of our God!!!

**Hebrews 12 # 6 12:15b The Dangerous Runner
Acts 20:29 - 30**

A. His Course

Underground - hoping to never be discovered

Underhanded - working underhanded

**Undermining - Operating under the cloak of
darkness**

B. His Company

Birds of a feather flock together

C. His Characteristics

Tearing up - Tearing down -

[I] HIS CHARACTER IS DANGEROUS

Little to no Biblical Convictions

1. A 'root' is vital for life

2. A 'root' is not visible

3. A 'root' is the vehicle of growth

This runner feeds of false - is a phoney

A person becomes what they feed on

spiritually

[II] HIS CURSE IS DANGEROUS

"thereby trouble and many be defiled"

1. This curse ruins one's energy

2. This curse robs one's enjoymeny

3. This curse reveals one's efforts

[III] HIS CAUSE IS DANGEROUS

What brings a person to this place in life

A. Possibly his feelings have become involved

B. Possibly the foolishness of his own lifestyle

C. Possibly his failure to face himself

**[IV] THERE IS A CURE FOR THIS DANGEROUS
RUNNER**

1. Determine the source of one's bitterness etc

The root of the problem must be discovered

2. Dig out the root itself -

The root must be destroyed...

3. Deal with the root and the fruit will be gone

Hebrews 12 - # 7 Hebrews 12:16 - 17

THE DISQUALIFIED RUNNER

**Judas provides an illustration in this area - notice
he repented - yet he went to his own place....**

Esau also repented but found no forgiveness...

**1. The possibility of being disqualified was feared by
Paul**

**2. The probability is realized by many people today
Placed on the shelf - disqualified!**

3. The pathway of destruction is ignored by many

4. The pain of this is ridiculed by Satan and his crowd

5. Its prevelance is awed by the angels

[I] DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF HIS CONDUCT

"any fornicator or profane person such as Esau"

1. He was carnal in his appetites

What we digest does make a difference

2. He was cowardice in his actions No courage

3. He was compromising in his attitude

Settled for less that he could have had

[II] DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF HIS CHARACTER

1. He is unprincipled - a lack of scriptural principles

Spiritual compromises of today

2. He is unkept or unclean

Dirty hands of our society - The filth of today

No moral standards -

3. He is unrespectful - no respect...

We are in need for Strong Principles Solid

Practices Spiritual Positions Scriptural Presentations

[III] DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF HIS COURSE

Cut off Publically - Personally - Positionally

Cut off Practically ---

He was rejected though....." Waited too long....

1. The sureness of some being disqualified

2. The shame in being disqualified

3. The sickness of disqualification

It has happened --- It does happen -----

Hebrews 12 - # 8 - Hebrews 12:22-24

THE DECORATED RUNNER - The winner!

The race has been run - Its finished... OVER!

Coronation day has arrived - HOME at last!

Three mountains are hinted at or mentioned here

1. Mt Sinai 12:18 - 21 There the law was delivered

2. Mt Calvary 12:24 There love was displayed

**3. Mt Zion 12:22 - 23 There the Lord will descend
Over the barriers - blockades - through the valleys
Beyond persecutions - perilous times - problems
from testings to triumphs -....**

[I] COMPULSION V 22

1. The people "YE" God's people

Those liberated through His Grace

**2. The place Mt Zion - Not Sinai - Not the place
of**

LAW - Not even Calvary The place of Love

Its Zion the place of Victory...

**3. The presence - Not alone - Family - Friends
Saviour --!!**

The notibility - Angels ---

Peter - James - John - Abraham - Isaac - Jacob

And on and on we could go.....

[II] COMPLETION V 23

1. All is done - The patriots are all there

2. The preservation - We have been kept for this!

3. The provider is there - He is the center...

**4. The perfection of it all - everything is perfect
Righteousness Reigns at last....**

[III] THE CROWNING V 24

Crowning day has arrived at last....

1. The pacifier - satisfaction has come -

Safe till the storm passes - It has passed.!!

2. The pact - the treaty is fulfilled....

Eternal Peace - Eternal Rest - Eternal Joy..

3. The panorama - Jubilee time

Shouting Time in Glory.....

**4. The prize - We receive our crowns -- BUT
we will lay them at the feet of Jesus....
Worthy is the lamb of God!!**