

---

Audio versions of Sermons and detailed sermon notes are available on our website: [LakeRegionBibleChurch.org](http://LakeRegionBibleChurch.org) (see “Messages 2024” tab)

---

## Running the Race with Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus

### 1. We’re surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

- Let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely

- Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

### 2. Looking to Jesus & running the race

- Are we fixing our eyes on Jesus as we run the race of biblical faith?

- He is the \*founder of our faith  
(\*author, pioneer, source, originator, leader, champion, trailblazer)

- He is the \*perfecter of our faith (\*completer)

- For the joy that was set before Him:

---> He endured the cross

---> He despised the shame

---> He is seated at the right hand of the throne of God

- Consider Him – so that we may not grow weary or fainthearted

---

### Excursus on The Great Cloud of Witnesses (Hebrews 11:39-12:1)

*THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS*, by F.F. Bruce (NICNT) © 1990 (p.330)

**39** From righteous Abel to those whose faith was so nobly manifested on the very eve of the coming of Christ, they all “won their record for faith”<sup>297</sup> (Moffatt). Some of them, as we were told in v. 33, “obtained promises,” but none of them received *the* promise in the sense of witnessing its fulfilment. They lived and died in prospect of a fulfilment which none of them experienced on earth; yet so real was that fulfilment to them that it gave them power to press upstream, against the current of the environment, and to live on earth as citizens of that commonwealth whose foundations are firmly laid in the unseen and eternal order. Their record is on high, and on earth as well, for the instruction and encouragement of men and women of later days.

**40** But now the promise has been fulfilled; the age of the new covenant has dawned; the Christ to whose day they looked forward has come and by his self-offering and his high-priestly ministry in the presence of God he has procured perfection for them – and for us. “With us in mind, God had a better plan,<sup>298</sup> that only in company with us should they reach their perfection” (NEB). They and we together now enjoy unrestricted access to God through Christ, as fellow-citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem. The “better plan” which God had made embraces the better hope, the better promises, the better covenant, the better sacrifices, the better and abiding possession, and the better resurrection<sup>299</sup> which is their heritage, and ours.