# *Third Street Church*

# *Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020- 6pm*

**Introductions/ Welcome - Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Barbara Massey Arnold**

**Opening Song : Elder Lowery Music Ministry**

**THE WORD OF GOD: Hebrews 12:1-11 English Standard Version(ESV)**

### Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

**12**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2**looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Do Not Grow Weary

**3**Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. **4**In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5**And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
    nor be weary when reproved by him.
**6**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
    and chastises every son whom he receives.”

**7**It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8**If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. **9**Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? **10**For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. **11**For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

**Reflection**

Hebrews 12 speaks of The winners that we immediately see in Hebrews 11 (The Hall of Faith). All of these people did it; they fought the fight, finished the race, and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

We learn in the passage for today that we must fix our eyes on the Savior to be healed of our sins. Christ looked past the pain of it all; Christ looked past the people who didn’t show love . Jesus paid it all. Jesus was able to pull through when the going got tough. If Jesus, God’s perfect Son, obeyed our Father while suffering. We can obey in our suffering. But in order to obey, we must fix our eyes on the one we are to obey.

God loves us by disciplining us. As parents, we know that we show love to our children, we discipline them. Your parents disciplined you. When it comes to us, we are not to regard it lightly. That means that we are not to ignore it, but instead, we are to take it seriously. Don’t be weary; don’t push back or rebel against God’s discipline. God uses discipline for our good (Romans 8:28).

Do you feel hopeless at times? Sometimes you don’t see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please know this: Jesus Christ loves you! Ask yourself what’s hindering you? Is there a friendship that’s drawing you away from your best friend, Jesus? What sins are clinging to you today? It could be sins from today, or sin from a long while in the past. Confess them, cleanse your heart, clear your conscience and you can rejoice in knowing our loving God forgives sin! Each of us know that we need to look to Christ, fix their eyes upon Jesus. There is much to distract us today but we must focus on Christ, the center of our joy and hope.

**Sharing/Discuss**

Please feel free to join in discussion during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. Or you can listen to other’s comments. This conference call study is not to judge anyone but to support and fellowship as people of faith. We are all learning together.

1. If you could pick a **key verse** from these passages what would it be?Why?
2. Who are [is] the ‘great cloud of witnesses’ (Hebrews 12:1)?
3. How are we to run the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1-3)?
4. What do you think are the ‘weights’ and ‘sin’ that concern the author (Hebrews 12:1)?
5. How is Jesus described to his readers (Hebrews 12:2-3)? What did Jesus do for us in these passages.
6. What is the comparison between our sufferings for Christ and Christ’s sufferings for us (Hebrews 12:4)?
7. What must we do as children of the Father? (Hebrews 12:7, 9)?
8. If we experience hostility striving against sin, how should we view it (Hebrews 12:4-9)?
9. What comparisons does the author draw between parental discipline\* of children and the trials of life (Hebrews 12:5-10)? \*The correct term is “chastening” Hebrews 12:5.
10. What purpose does the discipline/chastening from God accomplish (Hebrews 12:10-11)? How does such discipline\* work to accomplish its purpose?

**What Inspires you these days?**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. Hold on to inspiration find hope in the midst of troubling times. What inspires you? Share with the study group if you would like. a song, hymn, scripture or special reading?

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**Faith in Action:**. The physical church doors are closed but we are the distance church wherever we are. Give, share, pray, reach out ***We are the Church.*** Reaching out , text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the Body of Christ.

Our denomination Upcoming Presbyterian Church Wide offering ***Christmas Joy* Offering Nov. 29-Dec. 20. 2020**. More information: Here is the link and click on offerings: https://specialofferings.pcusa.org

**Evening Prayer- Pastor Reid.**

**Let us lift up people/situations in God’s world for prayer *we must know and believe in the power of PRAYER!!***

**Closing SongElder Lowery Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending:**
L: My Brothers and Sisters in Christ as we leave each other and evening comes let us go in peace in love and serve the Lord,
**ALL: We go with the LOVE of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! Next Bible Study, Oct. 14 at 6pm

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid