



RUNNING TO THE TAPE

4th in a Series on the Pandemic – Topic: Endurance

Passage: 1 Corinthians 10:13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

This past Sunday, Rick preached his fourth sermon from the fireside in their home. He gave a timely sermon on endurance, with a view to enduring the Coronavirus isolation.

First Rick showed the importance of endurance, and how crucial it is (especially when in isolation with your family), yet counterintuitive, to seek the good of others before that of yourself. Scripture says endurance is essential if we desire to do God's will, to take this crisis and turn it into glory, and if we are to receive the resultant promises.

Excerpt:

"In our situation endurance means more than just gritting our teeth and outlasting this epidemic. It has to do with how we live as we survive it. It means continuing to trust God, living as God wants us to live. It means continuing to have hope in him, continuing to be at peace because we know he loves us and he is in control. It means being patient, waiting on him, persevering in being light in the darkness, being an island of hope in an ocean of fear. It means not living in despair, fear and frustration, but bringing God's grace and love to others in the middle of the crisis."

Without endurance, you won't finish the "race" (and life is very much like a race in this respect. It is hard and will require endurance).

Without endurance, you can't be mature. For us to mature means to develop, grow and improve during our lifetime, seeking from Christ to give us fullness of life, peace and joy; and what is needed for that is *endurance*. Rick said, ***"Every good thing***

God wants to pour into our lives comes through endurance. When we quit all we do is short circuit God giving us wholeness of life!"

Rick gave us five things to help us endure:

1. Example - Follow the example of Jesus and His endurance! When things are hard remember it's not as bad as the cross.
2. Mission - Make your life mission be to serve and glorify God.
3. Focus - Don't be distracted from your mission: ***"If it's not mission, it's background noise!"***
4. Strength - Seek strength from the One whose strength is infinite.
5. Hope – Without hope, endurance is destroyed. Place your hope on *what is sure: Heaven*.