

WHAT IT MEANS TO "LOOK TO JESUS"

Hebrews 12:1-2

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The Olympics always draw a lot of attention for there are many different kinds of competitions and many different nations participating. There are thousands who watch both there where the events are being held and then by television. There will always be somebody watching whenever there is a race, whether it is in the Olympics or a school event or wherever. Jesus speaks of a race and Christians are the ones running the race and the spectators are those Saints who have died and gone on to be with the Lord Jesus Christ who is also the judge and will award the victors their crowns. Those running the race are told to look to Jesus as they run the race.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "LOOK TO JESUS?"

1. Jesus set the example in enduring trials, temptations, and all that believers will go through in their "race."
 - The Christian is to keep his/her eyes on Jesus who has already gone through what he/she is and will therefore He is the Christian's role model, example.
2. Jesus is the author and finisher of the believer's faith.
 - Jesus designed and carried out the way for people to be saved and have eternal life, the author and finisher of the believer's faith.
 - Jesus is the great object of the believer's faith.
 - Believers (those running in the race) are to focus on what the Bible says about Jesus Christ.
3. Christians (those running in the race) are to look to Jesus for His Grace.
 - Every believer will need help, encouragement, reviving often during his/her race in life therefore he/she needs to keep his/her eyes on Jesus for an encouraging word and look.

II. HOW DOES ONE "LOOK TO JESUS?"

1. To "look to Jesus" is not just a passing glance but a deliberate continuous look.
2. To "look to Jesus" means to look away from everything else.
3. To "look to Jesus" means to fix one's attention and mind entirely upon Jesus.
4. To "look to Jesus" means total depending upon Him and nothing or nobody else as one "runs his/her race."
5. To "look to Jesus" is to put away any thought of disobedience and depend upon Jesus for any and every kind an degree of assistance.
6. To "look to Jesus" is to make Him the center of one's study, thoughts and example, trying to be just like Him in every way.
7. To "look to Jesus" is to totally commit one's entire being to Him.

III. WHAT ONE IS TO LOOK FOR WHEN "LOOKING TO JESUS"

1. Jesus is to be looked to as one's atoning priest who has offered a sacrifice for one's sin and to expect forgiveness for His sake and in His name.
2. Jesus is to be looked at as one's advocate, the One to plead the believer's case before the throne of grace.
3. Jesus is to be looked at for sympathy.
 - Jesus already knows what believers go through as He has already experienced it all.
4. Jesus is to be looked at for spiritual strength to help overcome all the difficulties that lie in one's life.
5. Jesus is to be looked at for spiritual healing.
6. Jesus is to be looked at for all that one lacks in him/herself.
 - Sanctification.
 - Redemption.

IV. MISTAKES THAT ARE MADE WHEN "LOOKING TO JESUS"

1. Some do not look to Jesus in sincerity, they do not make Jesus their center of interest.
 - They do not really understand Jesus' ability.
 - They try to limit Jesus' ability.
 - They do not consider how ready Jesus is to help.
 - They do not know very much about Jesus.
2. Some do not look to Jesus expecting Him to do what He has said He would and could do:
 - Forgiveness, Justification, Provision, Necessities
3. Some do not look to Jesus because they don't take serious Jesus' sincerity:
 - do not assume that Jesus loves them.
 - thinking that they have to love Jesus first.
 - no real confidence in Jesus' promises.
 - they don't understand Jesus' kind of love, His sincerity, His faithfulness.
4. Some do not look to Jesus as they should because think they can continue to live on in their sins and somehow in the end Jesus will forgive them then.
5. Some look to Jesus expecting to maybe be saved from some great, disgraceful sin but not the everyday "little" sins, not looking to Jesus for full redemption from all sins.
6. Some look to Jesus expecting peace and pardon before they repent and exercise faith in Jesus.
7. Some do not look to Jesus because they are focused upon themselves.
8. Some fail to look at Jesus in appreciation for all He is and does.
9. Some talk about being dependent upon Jesus Christ but in reality, don't lean on Him.
 - There is a great difference between "feeling" dependent and actually depending.
10. Some fail to look at Jesus because they don't look away from areas they depend upon.
11. Some fail to look at Jesus as they should because they are focused upon their own weaknesses rather than Jesus' strength.
12. Some look to Jesus without sincerity:
 - They think about Jesus, read about Jesus, hear about Jesus, even talk about Jesus, yet remain inactive.
13. Some look to Jesus expecting a miracle from Him to fix something wrong in their lives without their having to do anything (cure a bad temper).
14. Some look to Jesus for help in just certain areas of their lives instead of their total, entire lives.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian is running a race in his/her life and is being watched by those believers who have already finished their race.
2. Jesus Christ is the One who will reward each and every Believer/Christian at the end of their race in life.
3. Every Christian running his/her race needs to focus upon Jesus in every area, in every moment of his/her race.
4. Jesus has promised and can enable every Christian runner to get through his/her race with His help in every area of life.
5. Sadly, most Christians, do not expect enough of or from the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The more one expects from Jesus, the better.
 - When one has done all he/she can, Jesus is able and willing to take over and help the Christian finish his/her race.
6. How much do YOU depend upon Jesus? How do YOU look to Jesus?

