

# THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US

By Keith Greer

What is the greatest race in the world? Daytona 500? Indianapolis 500? Brickyard 400? No, the greatest race of all is one we as God's people are entered in-our race for the crown of life. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside even weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1) Let us discuss some important points concerning this vital race.

**Must be entered into the race.** Before one can begin running in this race you must enter the race. Only by one's obedience to the gospel of Christ can we enter. This way has been "marked out" for all who desire to run. A study of God's word will clearly show the things needed to begin. Have you done so?

Lay aside the sin which besets us. Anything that would hinder our ability to finish this race must be set aside. Love for the world can hinder us, 1 John 2:15-17. Trying to serve two masters can hinder us, Matthew 6:24. Any sin that we commit, and do not repent of, is a weight that will hinder us in this race. Do you have sin in your life that is hindering your ability to run in this race?

**Must run race with patience.** The concept we need to grasp here is one of endurance - in for the long haul. One cannot win in this race if he is not there at the finish! To run with this patience is to run well, Galatians 5:7. Steadfastness and determination to reach the goal is vital if we desire to win, 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**We Must look to Jesus.** " Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ... " (Hebrews 12:2) Where else can one get the help to run in this race? John 6:66-68 Jesus will help us along the way to stay focused on the goal and stay on the track.

How are you running in this race dear reader? Will you cross the goal line a victor or will you quit before you reach the finish line? "Gentlemen, start your engines!" \*\*\*