

# JESUS IS BETTER: letter to the Houstonians

Sermon Study Guide | Part Eight: Better than Despair | 10/29/17 | @thestoryhouston @pastorerichuffman

## PURPOSE OF THIS SERMON SERIES

1. To become more familiar with the Bible through a study of Hebrews
2. To convey the stark differences between the Gospel of Jesus and religions of men
3. To inspire people to believe Jesus (as opposed to just “believing in Jesus”)

## HEBREWS RECAP

What have been your biggest takeaways from this 8-week series on Hebrews? What have you learned about the Bible, the gospel, religion, priests, sacrifices for sin, the Holy Spirit, and the nature of faith that has surprised you, inspired you, or just made you think?

### KEY TEXT: HEBREWS 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Who are these “witnesses”?

## ROADBLOCKS AND BOOBYTRAPS

The author says we should “throw off everything that hinders.” What hindrances do you have in your life right now that might be holding you back from a deeper commitment to Christ? This could be anything from relationship drama to insecurities to spending too much time and money on entertainment.

Next, he writes, “throw off...the sin that so easily entangles.” This is a tough one. How are you entangled by sin? Do you think it’s possible to simply “throw off” patterns of sinful behavior?

## PIONEER AND PERFECTER

What is perseverance? Can you think of a time in your life when you had to work hard to persevere?

What do you think it means to “fix our eyes on Jesus”?

Write more of your notes or questions here: