**Christianity is a Race…**

Here in Indianapolis, we know a bit about races. And even more than fried pork tenderloins, Monument Circle, or an old song about summertime, rain, and little green apples (by Roger Miller), its what we’re famous for. It is quite a spectacle- the greatest single-day sporting event in the world (by attendance- a little over 300,000 people). But it is NOT the greatest race. Christianity is a race, but it is a race like no other. It has its own rules, pace, objectives, and outcomes. Let’s consider the *Race* that is *Christianity:*

1. **Heb.12:1-2.** Don’t forget it is an **Endurance race, not a sprint**- there is no “low speed limit,” but you have to keep moving forward, cf. Matt.13:20-21. Preparation, strategy, and sticking to the plan are important, but you must also adapt to conditions, cautions, and wrecks along the way (just do your best to avoid them, and get back in the race when damaged by them, cf. Heb.3:12-19!).
2. (Heb.9:1ff) **Heb.12:3; 10:35-39.** There are rules designed to keep you on the right path/track/road, **but if you don’t quit or turn back, you can’t lose,** cf. 2Pet.1:5-11.
3. **Heb.3:12-19.** Not timed, **but could be over at any time**- you never know when it will end, cf. Jas.4:13-17. We’ve all had ample examples, unfortunately, of the brevity of life. Israel had forty years of funerals to remind them, cf. Heb.3:17.
4. **Heb.10:19-25. Effort and commitment are more important that talent or abilities**. We just need to: a) have *confidence* through Jesus, vv.19-20; b) *draw near / get close* to God, v.22; *hold fast / stay there* by *clinging tenaciously* to Him, v.22; and *consider how to stimulate / help others* cross the finish line, vv.24-25.
5. (Heb.6:4-8) **Heb.6:9-20. Reward is imperishable and eternal**, and there is **abundant *help***along the road to victory (the *promise* and *oath* of God to *bless* and *assist* us through our *forerunner,* Jesus Christ!).

**Conclusions:**

* **Christianity is a *race,* but it is one like no other.**
* **Just like no *driver* wins the 500 *alone,* you have a great *team* helping and cheering you on to victory.**
* **But you have to *stay the course, keep your eye on the (ultimate) goal,* and *cross the line.* Then,**
* ***Eternal victory* is yours!**