

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank-You to Lorne and Betty Potter for your service in the high calling of His work at CVCC this past year! May God bless you both in the next chapter of his plans for your lives!

Soup Sunday is next Sunday! Please sign-up at the back with your contribution.

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting meets at the church Tuesday at 7 PM.

Youth Games Night for youth aged 10 and up, Thursdays at 7 PM at the church.

Mission Update Letter from Jeff Kilmartin is available at the back table. Please pick up a copy and **remember Jeff and Sonya in your prayers.**

Spring Cleaning? Decluttering? Now is your chance to rid your home of any stuff you don't need that someone else may find useful. Consider donating to the church's Garage Sale scheduled for Sports Day in June. More details to come!



BIBLE READING PLAN

MONDAY (5/1):

2 Samuel 1:1 – 3:5

TUESDAY (5/2):

2 Samuel 3:6 – 5:5

WEDNESDAY (5/3):

2 Samuel 5:6 – 7:17

THURSDAY (5/4):

2 Samuel 7:18 – 10:19

FRIDAY (5/5):

2 Samuel 11 – 12

SATURDAY (5/6):

2 Samuel 13 – 14



Carbon Valley Community Church

By God's grace, for God's glory & for our joy

April 30, 2023

Welcome & Announcements

Worship Hymn: *'Come, Christians, Join to Sing'*

Invocational Prayer

Worship Hymns:

'For His Name is Exalted'

'His Name is Wonderful'

'Glorify Thy Name'

Pastoral Prayer

Story Time: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Children dismissed to Sunday School following Story time

Worship Song: *'Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God'*

Today's Message:

The Race Set Before Us

Hebrews 12:1-15 (p.1196)

Worship Song: *'He Will Hold Me Fast'*

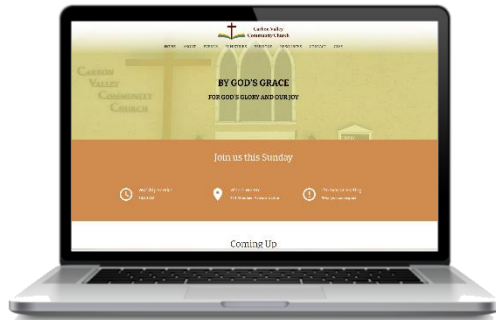
Benediction

CVCC is on the web!

...and not just Facebook

Introducing our bit of real estate on the information superhighway:

CarbonValleyChurch.ca



**Church Info ● Sermons ● Coming Events
& more!**

www.CarbonValleyChurch.ca

Lorne Potter, *Interim Pastor*

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The Race Set Before Us

(Series) *“God’s Training Program for Endurance Running”* - Part 3 of 3

Introduction: The path to the promised land is not a path of ease. By God’s grace it is a path of great joy for the faithful! But the Christian life is not a “lark in the park” because it includes hardship that requires grace-given focus, determination, disciplined training, and the faithful endurance of an athlete, if the prize of eternal life is to be won.

The writer to the Hebrews portrays the Christian life as a **race** that God has laid out before us.

The NT frequently uses athletic imagery to portray the Christian life.

- 1) **1 Cor 9:24** - *“Do you not know that in a race [Gk. *stadion* - “stadium”] all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.”*
 - 2) **2 Tim 2:5** - *“An athlete [Gk. *athlon*] is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”*
 - 3) **1 Tim 4:7-8** “training” [Gk - *gymnasía*]
 - 4) The Greek word *agōn* (*agōnizomai*) refers to a contest, struggle, competition, fight, conflict, contention, striving, race, etc.
- See **1 Cor 9:25; Col 1:28-2:1; 4:12-13; 1 Tim 4:7-10; 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7**
1. The race set before us is the Christian life of faith.
 - a) **It is a fight to keep on faithfully following Christ in the midst of hardship.**
 - b) **It is a struggle that we must fight for ourselves, but not by ourselves.**
 - c) **It does not by-pass the hardships of this life which are common to all men.**
 - d) **It includes the sufferings that are unique to followers of Jesus.**
 - e) **The “prize” is eternal life.** (See **10:35-39**)
 2. The race set before us is an endurance race. [1-4]
 - a) **We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.** [1a]. (See **chapter 11**.)
 - b) **We must run without hindrances.** [1b]

c) **We must run with endurance.** [1c] - See **10:32, 36; 12:1, 2, 3, 7**
- *“endurance”* - 4x (plus **10:32, 36**)

d) **We must run with our eyes fixed on Jesus.** [2-3]

e) **We must struggle against sin.** [4]

• **Our Father graciously provides the training regimen necessary for our success.**

3. The race set before us requires discipline. [5-11]

a) **God’s discipline through hardship is evidence of our sonship.** [5-8]

- *“discipline”* or “instruction” (Gk. rel. to “pedagogy”) 11x (2 pronouns [v.11] incl.)

b) **The Father’s Discipline is his training regimen for our good.** [9-11]

1) **That we would Live!** [9]

- See **2:1-3a; 3:12-4:2, 11-13; 6:4-12; 10:32-39; 12:25**

* The warnings of Hebrews urge us not to fall away from Christ (apostasy). We are called on to persevere, to hold on, to keep believing until the end and win the prize—eternal life! If we fall away, the author insists, we will face destruction and damnation. - See **10:26-31**

~ Therefore, joyfully submit to the Father’s discipline.

2) *“that we may share his holiness”* [10] - See **14**

3) **That we may have “the peaceful fruit of righteousness”** [11].

4. So, these things being true, how then should we live?

a) *“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ...”* [12-13]

b) Strive for peace and holiness [14]

c) *“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God”* [15]

~ **2 Cor 4:16-18** - Don’t despise the pain—delight in the prize!