

SERMON NOTES

“Trials as trainers and teachers” | Pastor Matthew Ruttan
November 21, 2021 – Westminster Church, Barrie
Live Stream & Limited In-Person, 10:01am

With this message we continue our journey through the book of Hebrews. Our text today is Hebrews 12:1-13.

Verse 1 mentions the “cloud of witnesses.” What is another way to say what this means?

Verses 1-2: “And let us run with perseverance that race marked out for us,
_____, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

A wandering eye reveals a wandering _____.

_____ can be trainers and teachers.

Verse 6: “the Lord disciplines the one he loves.” What is discipline?

Verse 10b reveals another element of purpose in what is happening through hardship: “God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his _____.”

Professor Tom Long: “People can _____ intense distress and pain if they know it is not meaningless.”

Verse 11: “Later on, however, it produces a harvest of _____ and _____ for those who have been trained by it.”

List a few of the hardships you either see in our world or which you are personally experiencing:

Consider how your trials may be training or teaching you to share in God’s holiness. What is one way you have been refined or have grown since the pandemic began?

“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,” with an eye to any media which may be entangling you. Pastor Ruttan said “My sense is that many Christians today are more shaped by content which dishonours God or which disregards God than they are by the teachings of Jesus.” Do you agree or disagree?

The question isn’t IF our minds are being shaped by the God-dishonouring or God-disregarding media we consume, but _____.

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.” List a few ways you can fix your eyes on Jesus: