

Are Your Bags Too Heavy? 10.19.25.

1.) DO NOT PACK TO HEAVY!!!!!!

Hebrews 12:1 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,

This “**Great cloud of witness**” is composed of the people described in chapter 11.

- **BY FAITH** - Their faithfulness is a constant encouragement to us.
- **We do not struggle alone,**
- And we are not the first to struggle with the problem we face!
- Others have run the race and **won....**
- And their witness stirs us to run and win also.....
- What an **inspiring heritage** we have!!!!!!

To run the race that God has set before us, we must strip ourselves of the things that slow us down!

- Choose friends who are committed to the race!!!!
- **NOT wrong friends** who will **detour you!!!** **DROP** certain activities....
- These activities may be **weighing you down!!!!**
- **GET help** for addictions that disable you.....
- **Secret weights** such as **pornography, gambling, or alcohol**
- **ADMIT** your need and get help today!!!!!!!!!!

Hebrews 12:2 - 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.

- The Christian Life **involves hard work.....**
- IT requires us to **give up** whatever **endangers our relationship with God!**

As Corina and I prepared for our Bahama cruise, I consistently told her...

Do not pack to heavy!!!!

I knew we would be traveling hundreds of miles and changing planes and dragging luggage on and off the cruise ship as well.

I didn't want to pack a bunch of stuff that I knew we didn't need AND.....

- There is a **50lb per bag** weight limit at the airport
- On our departure I was assured she had only packed **what we had to have**.
- **TWO Large bags** - You guessed it, **50lbs each** - 100lbs for a 6 day trip....
- Only a **couple of pounds** from being.... **TOO much** according to the airport!
- **SHE CUT IT CLOSE.....**

TODAY...I WANT TO ASK YOU...ARE YOUR BAGS TOO HEAVY???????

WHAT KIND OF BAGGAGE ARE YOU TRAVELING WITH???????????????

ARE YOU OVERLOADED??

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2.) PUT SOME THINGS TO DEATH!!!!!!

Colossians 3:5-10 - ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

- We should ***consider ourselves dead & unresponsive*** to such things!

⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

- This refers to **God's Judgement** on these kinds of behavior.

⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also **rid yourselves** of all such things as these: **anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.** ⁹**Do not lie** to each other, **since you have taken off your old self with its practices** ¹⁰and **have put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

- ***We must rid ourselves of all evil practices and immorality!!!***
- Then we can **commit ourselves** to what Christ teaches.....

3.) Clothe Yourselfs – You’re his!!!!!!!!!!

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- Paul offers a strategy to help us **live for God day by day.....**
- **Imitate Christ’s** compassionate, forgiving attitude...
- **Let love** guide your life.....
- **Let the peace** of Christ rule in your Heart.....
- Always **be thankful.....**
- **Keep God’s word** in you at all times
- **Live as Jesus** Christ’s representative!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

When we boarded our connecting flight from S.C. to Florida...

- The flight Attendant asked if we had checked luggage....
- We told him yes...he asked for our receipt....
- We showed him.. And he punched in some numbers and told us that our heavy bags would meet us in Jacksonville.....
- **RIGHT THEN** I thought....we are traveling hundreds of miles again with -
- **TOO MUCH BAGGAGE.....**
- When we arrived in Jacksonville you guessed it.....
- We had to **lug them heavy bags** from the airport to the hotel...
- Then from the hotel too the ship.....

WE HAD TOO MUCH BAGGAGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

4.) Carrying Heavy Bags will come with a price!!!!!!

THEN, On the return home.

- To get off of the ship you must **carry your luggage**, down the steps through the tight hall ways..
- **Weaving in and out** of people and obstacles...
- **AND they were now just as heavy as ever..**
- Slowing us down...

- ONLY, to turn the corner and face confrontation of other passengers...
- **MAD and frustrated** because **their bags were TOO HEAVY!!!!!!**
- THEY THOUGHT FOR SURE THEY WOULD MISS THEIR CONNECTING FLIGHTS

**5.) Many Christians miss the flight to heaven....because the also are carrying -
TOO MUCH BAGGAGE.....**

- Many Christians ***will miss the flight to heaven....because they are weighed down with too much baggage!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***
- **YOU** are traveling with hatred, bitterness, (PUT IN SUITCASE)
- It is weighing you down....
- Destroying your health.....
- Tiring you out.....

You need to unload some things on God and lighten up...your load.

Some things just don't matter.

6.) MOSES: He was carrying too much baggage....

- He told God...**not to use him** because he stuttered in his speech...
- He told God...**that he couldn't be used...**because...**he had baggage...**he killed a man...now he was a murder.....
- **He became angry** and smote the rock...**because of his baggage....**
- **He broke the commandments** upon the ground...**because of his baggage...**
- **AND his baggage...**eventually **made him miss the Promised Land!!!!!!!!!!!!**

ARE YOU GOING TO LET YOUR BAGGAGE.....KEEP YOU OUT OF YOUR PROMISED LAND?

7.) Now that you have tasted the Lord!!!!!!!! - Some things just don't matter.

- They thought **I would stress** about the luggage...
- The connecting flights...
- BUT, I didn't...because...**it really didn't matter....**

- It was a **time of a little inconvenience**...but...we had just finished a fun time and didn't want to mess it up.....
- We had to let the guy that was mad go ahead...
- He embarrassed his family....
- BUT....**It really didn't matter** and it most definitely didn't ruin our trip!!!!

CLOSE: Some things just don't matter.

Galatians 5:1 - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Open SUITCASE - 1 Peter 2:1-3 - Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ **now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

RID YOURSELVES - CRAVE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK - THE LORD IS GOOD!!!!!!

***BY Products of living for GOD!* - Galatians 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ [g]entleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- COMPASSION, HUMILITY, FORGIVENESS – **PURE SPIRITUAL MILK!!!!!!!!!!!!**

WE HAVE TO UNPACK – RID OURSELVES – OF ALL – VICES – NEGLECTING GOD AND OTHERS!!!!!!

MALICE, DECEIT, HYPOCRISY, ENVY AND SLANDER OF EVERY KIND!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Baptism – Baby Dedication – Birthday Party!