



10. Heaven's Grandstands

Are people in Heaven watching us? People believe that. Hebrews 12 starts with the words, “*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us ...*”

That's where a lot of believers get the idea that people in Heaven's grandstands are watching us. But they're not. The Greek word translated there as *witnesses* is the word for *testifiers* ... not eye-witnesses. And Hebrews 12 starts with the

word *therefore*. Wherever you read a therefore, find out what it's there for.

Hebrews 11 is the record of the great cloud of Old Testament testimonies of the great faith of the waiters, the winners, and the wiped-out. Hebrews 12 continues Hebrews 11. Since we have that record, the testimonies of the Hebrews 11 men and women of great faith ... we should live by the exhortation in chapter 12. Here it is, "*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us [in Hebrews 11], let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” People in Heaven aren't watching us. Do you really think they would want to? The motivation for obedience is not that people in Heaven's grandstands are watching ... they're not. The true motivation is Jesus ... the author and perfecter of our faith.

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