Sermon Outline - March 29, 2020

Text: Hebrews 12:1-3

Title: "Running with Witnesses"

How does the church respond to the times God has placed us within? How are we faithful to His calling and His mission?
If we are going to be "of those who do not shrink back" (Hebrews 10:39), if we are going to be "strengthened in grace" and "endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:1-10), then how do we respond well to such a calling? How do we run this race God has given us — and run it well? What does it take to endure, to persevere…and to run like "warrior poets," with the wind at our backs?

A Cloud of Witnesses (v.1)

Laying Aside Anything That Slow Us Down (v.1b)

How We Are Able to Keep Running For the Long Term (v.2-3)

Some texts for follow-up study and meditation this week:

- Hebrews 10:32-39
- Psalm 28
- 2 Timothy 2:1-10
- Philippians 3:7-12
- Romans 1:16-17

How has God been speaking to you in the last couple of weeks? How is He answering your fear? How is He leading you to slow down and to re-focus on Him and the things that really matter?

What has been the hardest challenge of the last couple of weeks? The scariest uncertainty?

How is God calling you to respond? What is the church supposed to be as His witnesses of hope and new life in Jesus?
What do we have that others around need? How can we take it to them?

What does hearing of this "great cloud of witnesses" (who ran before us and was rescued by God) do to encourage you and strengthen you?

What are the things that entangle you and slow you down? What is God bringing to mind, whether something that is a sin or just something that is not "best" that you need to get rid of out of your life? Do the things in your life help you or hinder you from running after Jesus? How does God want you to respond?

How can seeing Jesus, keeping your eyes on Him, and seeing Him as the "Perfector" of your faith strengthen you for the long haul of what is ahead?