

Life is a race Heb 12



Heb 12:1 Endurance race

- Lay aside weights life, put on yoke of Christ
 - Mar 4:19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
 - Mat 6:25-34 lay aside cares of the Gentiles, seek first...
 - Mat 11:29,30 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus

- Keep eye on the finish line – 1Pe 1:9 now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- Jesus – Col 1:18 firstborn from the dead, endured pain of the cross, despised or disregarded the shame of it – sat down as victor at the right hand of God
- Don't be shocked by trials and scorn. 1Pe 4:4

Vs 3,4 Consider further:

- Endured hostilities as a consequence – Mat 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness...
- Lest your 'psuche' breath, mind, soul weakens or tires out Jam 5:15 (sick), Rev 2:3 weary
- Could be worse – as the adversary sees you making progress, will persecution decrease?
- Bloodshed in fight against sin – 2Co 10:4 weapons aren't carnal, but opponents still use them against us

Vs 5,6 Forgetful runners

- Exhortation is “don't despise or be discouraged by discipline!” Jesus says: Do you want to give up and go away? Peter said: To whom shall we go? You have the Words of life John 6:68
- 1Pe 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.
- The God who loves, knows what you feel and what you need.

Vs 7 If you endure

- Endurance is needed for the required discipline, not the race. Everyone runs the rat race (life), but will you compete in God's race and endure the discipline? That's a different race and rules.
- Entering the race is not the same as winning a crown. You may quit at any time. God will attempt to call you back for awhile. The Laodiceans were still loved and disciplined by God even though they were making Him sick. Rev 3:19 Those I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore be earnest and repent.

Vs 8 If you ignore God's discipline

- The illegitimate ones get angry, mock and scoff at God's discipline which comes by:
 - Using scripture as a mirror 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves
 - Submitting to admonishment by brethren using the scriptures. See Paul's confidence of the Roman brethren in Rom 15:14

Vs 9,10 Compare God to your own father

- Which one receives more honor from the children? Father of flesh or father of spirit?
- Which one does a better job of discipline?
- Which one never quits?
- Which one has the better ability?
- Which one truly profits the child?
- We may partakers of holiness with discipline from God

Vs 11 Nature of discipline

- Just like yucky medicine – hold your nose and swallow! It's grievous, but Oh those benefits!
- Peaceable fruit of righteousness – Paul before governor Felix Act 24:25 As Paul expounded on righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said,
 - Was Felix frightened because of the judgment or because he had no discipline? Rom 14:12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Felix was to be judged in the true race of life and he couldn't even run.

Vs 12,13 Strengthen what?

- Hands, knees, feet, heal the lame
 - These represent what we need to run with endurance. What goes lame in a spiritual race? The mind! Our thoughts betray us – we start well and then fail to follow through in our actions. We intend to serve, but are distracted so easily. Gal 5:7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? Keep your commitment!
 - The Galatians were distracted from the true Gospel
- Straight paths for feet – prevents lameness, requires wisdom to avoid snares in life. Listen to the ones in front! 1Cor 11:1 Paul's example

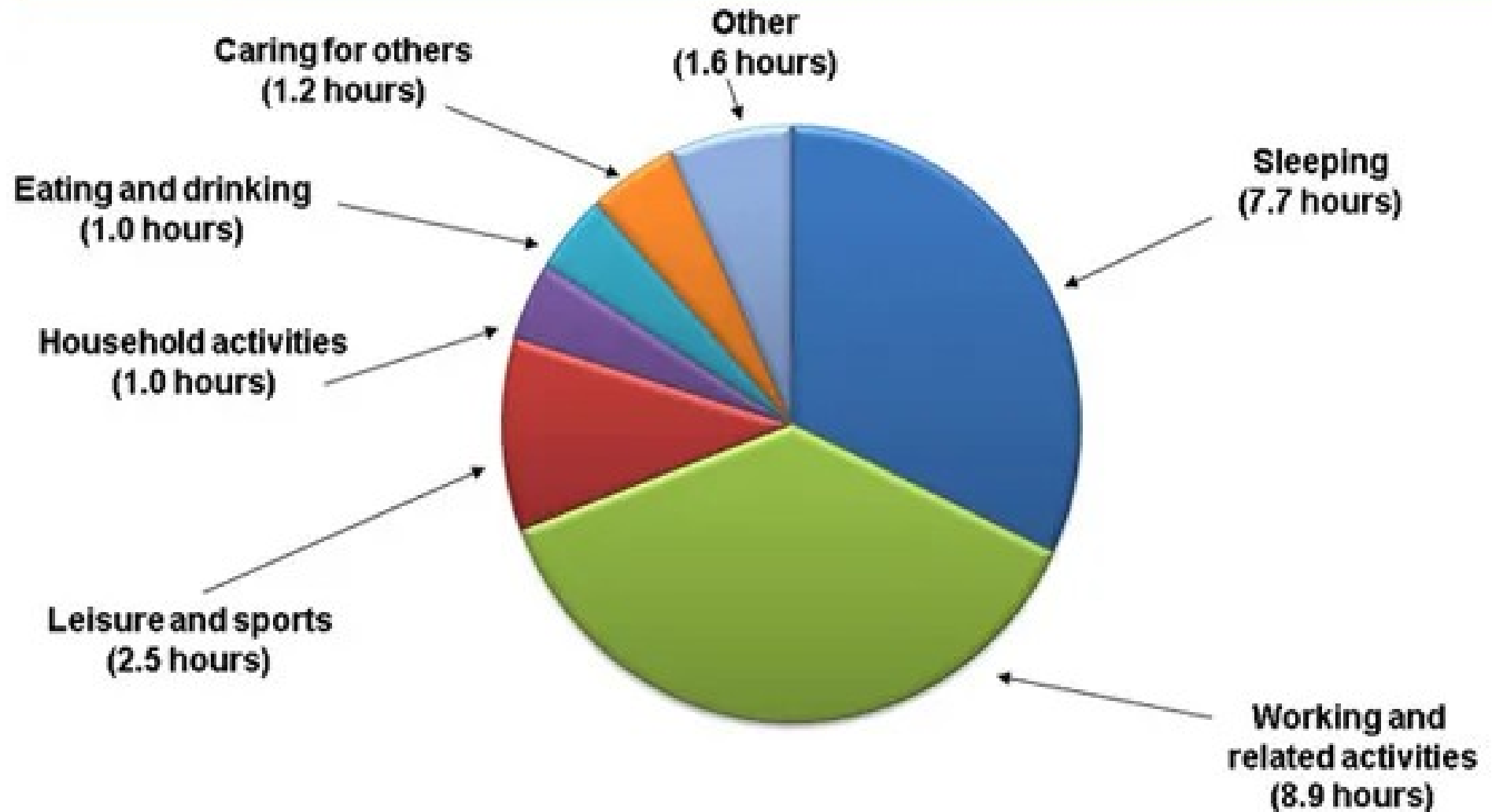
Vs 14-17 God's race is a team event.

- Pursue peace – Rom 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Avoid appearances of evil by wisdom of God.
 - Can't always be done Mt 12:10
- Look for stragglers – they are falling short of God's grace (discipline) – not God's fault, theirs. Their lack of discipline may influence others.
- Remember Esau who was profane (common, base, or low minded, not spiritual minded)
 - He sorely wanted to be a winner, but was a loser due to lack of discipline.

Paul coaches Timothy

- Paul's preacher training manual
- So Timothy (evangelists) can train us.

Time use on an average work day for employed persons ages 25 to 54 with children



NOTE: Data include employed persons on days they worked, ages 25 to 54, who lived in households with children under 18. Data include non-holiday weekdays and are annual averages for 2014. Data include related travel for each activity.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Time Use Survey

Widows

- Which of the two Widows are you?
- (I Timothy 5:13) Lazy Widows - Why they are not redeeming the time.
- (I Timothy 5:9-10) Wise Widows – Redeemed their time on earth.
- Which will you be, when you meet God?

Older men

- Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

Older women

- Titus 2:3,4 Older women, likewise, are to be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers or addicted to much wine, but teachers of good. In this way they can train the young women to love their husbands and children,

Younger men

- Titus 2:6,7 In the same way, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. In everything, show yourself to be an example by doing good works. In your teaching show integrity, dignity, and wholesome speech that is above reproach,

Younger women

- Titus 2:4,5 young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, managers of their households, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be discredited.

2Tim 2 Paul trains Timothy

- 2:3 As a good soldier of Christ
- 2:4 Make wise choices how much of yourself you entangle in worldly pursuits – career, jobs, politics, military, farming, sports, education, etc
 - Paul advised undistracted service to God, even to the point of remaining single in view of distressing conditions 1Co 7:26.
- 2:5 God's race is by His rules. There are other races by different rules. If you're not in His race on His terms, it's not sanctioned.

Ruler of the Universe makes rules



Can't win the crown no matter how fast one runs!

2Ti 2:7-10

- Consider: The race is spiritual reality, not just physical
- Suffering chains for Gospel sake is a good investment. God charges full price.
- Suffering for others to obtain salvation is smart
- Do bad things happen to by others? Good! Endure! With patience, count it joy!
- Act 16:22... was vs 18 a bad idea? Philippian jailer is saved

2Ti 2:11-13

- Trustworthy race sayings:
- If we die (and stay dead) = we shall live
- If we endure (the course) = we will reign
- If we deny Him (give up) = He will deny us
- If we are faithless to Him = He is faithful to Himself, can't deny Himself (no compromise, no prize for losing)