

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday, I talked with you about the POWER of faith; the ACCOMPLISHMENTS of faith; SUFFERINGS of faith. This day I would like to talk to you about the DEMANDS OF FAITH. In our text faith demands 3 things of us.

THEY ARE: 1. That we lay aside every weight.

2. And sin which doth so easily beset us.

WEIGHT 3. Run with patience the race before us.

1. The Greek word for "weights" means "Tumor or swelling" so that an excesence, or superfluity is had in view.

2. A "weight" is something which we are at liberty to cast aside, but which instead we may choose to retain.

3. A weight here is something which retards our progress rendering us incapable in the discharge of our duties to God.

3/4. The "weights" of our text have no reference to those duties which God requires us to discharge...WEIGHTS that seem so heavy to some apparently...THEY DO APPLY to many things which God's people sometime impose upon themselves.

WEIGHTS...THEIR NATURE: Weights may be weights when they are in excess. Those same weights in

moderation may become helps; not hinderances. EXAMPLES:

1. THE EYE: "If thy <sup>eye</sup> right offend, pluck it out." Mat. 5:29

2. THE RIGHT HAND: "If thy right hand offend, cut it off."

3. THE TONGUE: "A little member, boasteth great things... full of deadly poison," RIGHT USE: "There-with bless we God." James 3:5-9

4. OUR APPETITE: "When thou sitteth to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite." Proverbs 23:1,2

IT IS NOT:

1. "Let us take care not acquire the weight": "Let us lay aside every weight," supposes that we have the weights

THE WEIGHT MAY BE SOME PERSONAL WEAKNESS: Amos 6:1; Luke 11:24

1. Resentment or suspicion, jealousy, envy toward another

2. Dignity-Self-importance. While we debate about the shock to our dignity...some one else runs past us.

3. Over-anxiety and Over-carefulness to the point of doing almost nothing compared to our ability to do.

4. FINALLY: We cannot always adopt circumstance to ourselves, they are too stubborn. WE CANNOT mani-

ipulate them as we manipulate figures in an argument. We cannot broaden the Strait Gate or the Narrow Way, but we can adjust our burdens so the Way will admit us. Matt. 7:14,14

\*PREACHED SUNDAY MORNING AT DEARBORN VALLEY JANUARY 24, 1965