

I'LL RACE YOU HOME

-Ryan Parsons-

Our family lost a dear friend in Texas this week. Amy was a beautiful soul and one of only a few people we trusted to watch our kids when they were little. Much could be said of her, but the most significant thing about Amy was that she was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, and you knew it by the way she lived her life. Cancer took her from this earth way too early, and today her family and friends mourn. But, we do not grieve like others do who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13) because our and Amy's hope is laid up in heaven (Colossians 1:5), not in this physical world.

I thought about this over the last week while listening to a local preacher describe his childhood years growing up on a farm with three brothers. He explained that the four of them would roam the farm in the afternoons and play in the nearby creek. Their parents required that they stay within earshot, so they could hear the call for supper and get home in a reasonable amount of time. One of the things that would invariably happen is one of the brothers would shout, "I'll race you home!"

We are also in a race to get home. Unlike little boys racing home for dinner, our race isn't about the pride of winning over another. It is all about the Father's call and getting to our Father's house. But, we can't run in any old way, and we shouldn't stop or get sidetracked.

We have to maintain our focus on Jesus and run with endurance as we run.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Likewise, we have to run as though we are actually trying to get to our Father's house.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

I hope your race is going well. I'll race you home!

Hesed,
Ryan