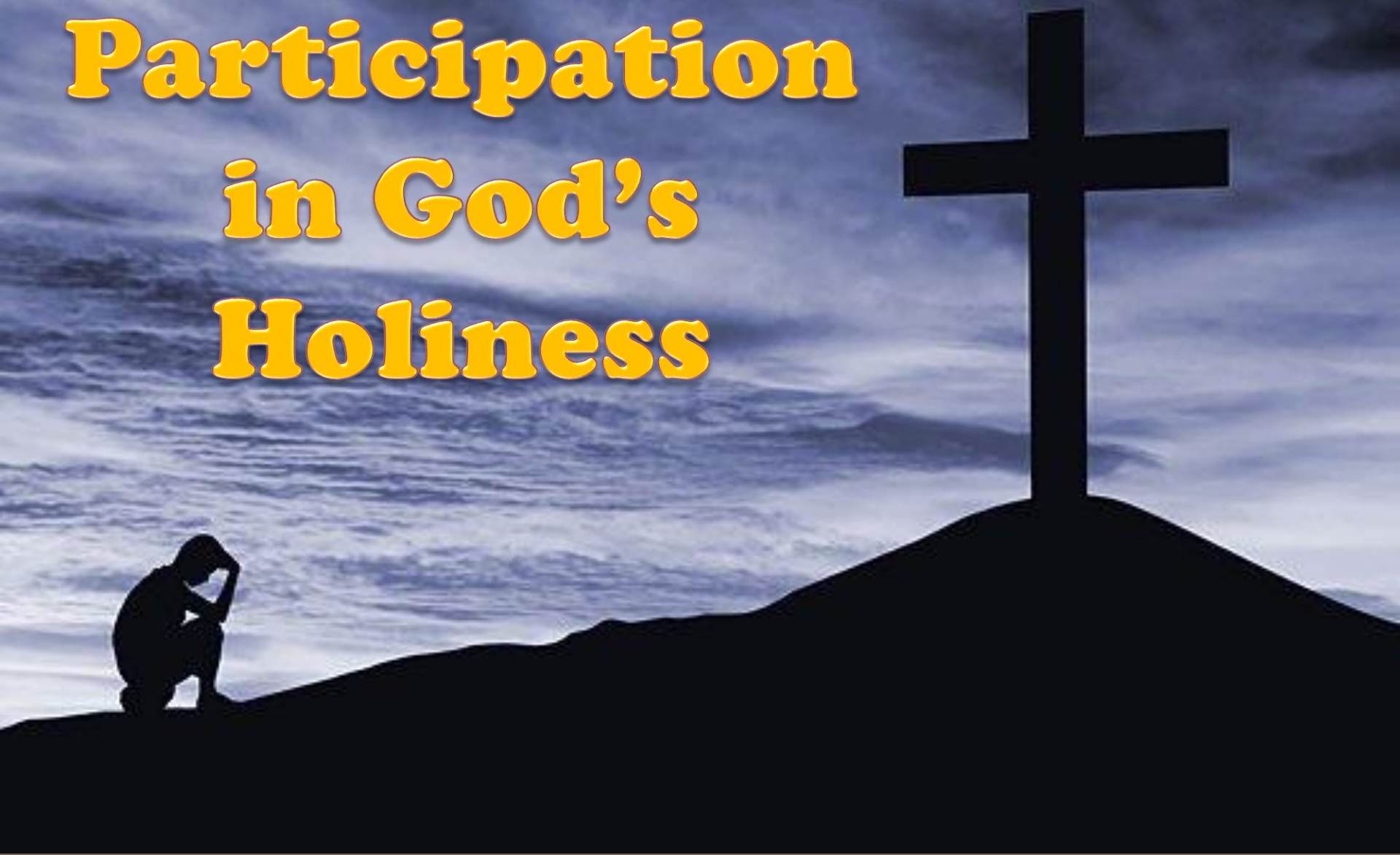


Participation in God's Holiness



Hebrews 12:3-17

Let us fix our
eyes on
Jesus
the
author and
perfector of
our faith,
who for the joy
set before him
endured the cross ...

Hebrews 12:2



**Today's text is a bridge from last
week's exhortation to this week's
imperative instructions!**

Context

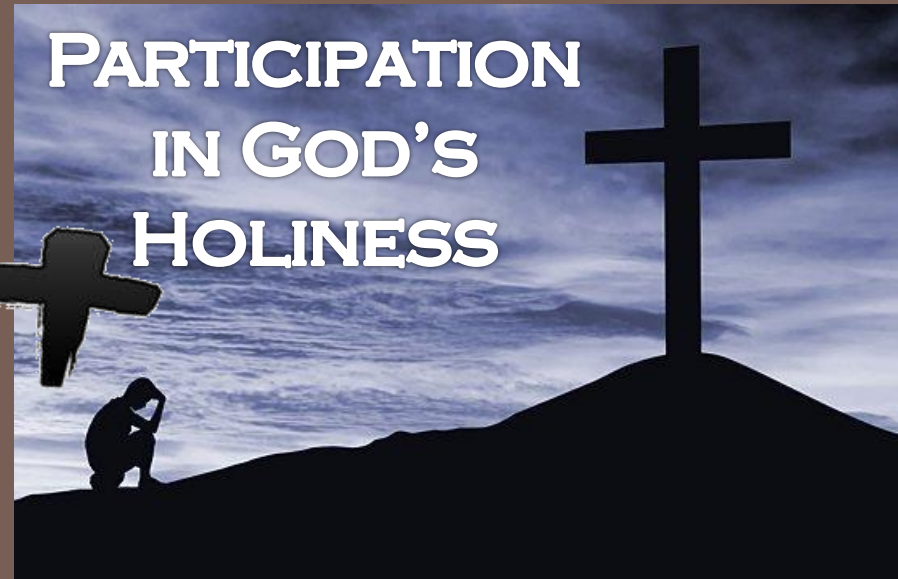
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PARTICIPATION
IN GOD'S
HOLINESS



The connection is by the
use of key words:

“endure” “JOY”

“sin”

Context

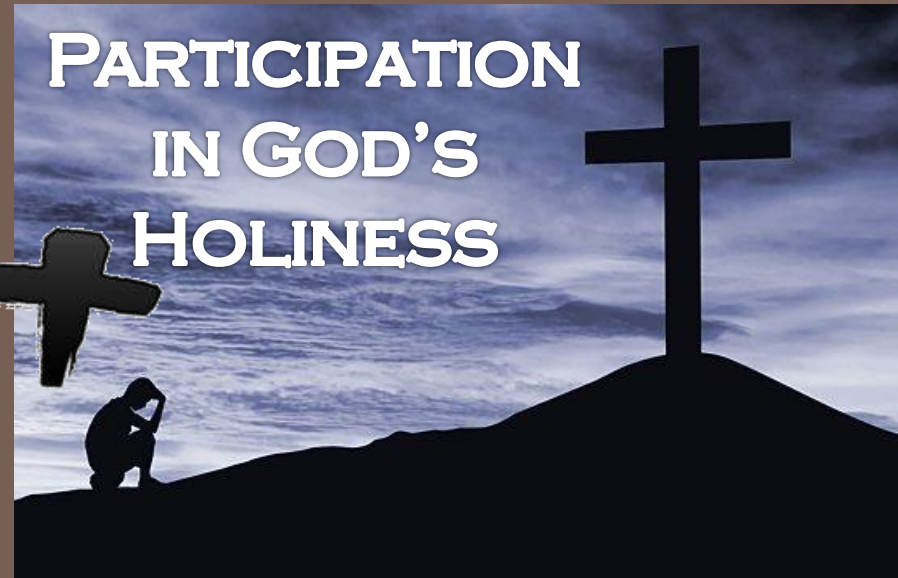
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**Yet this section also provides a
number of imperatives (instructions!)
by the use of key words:**

Context

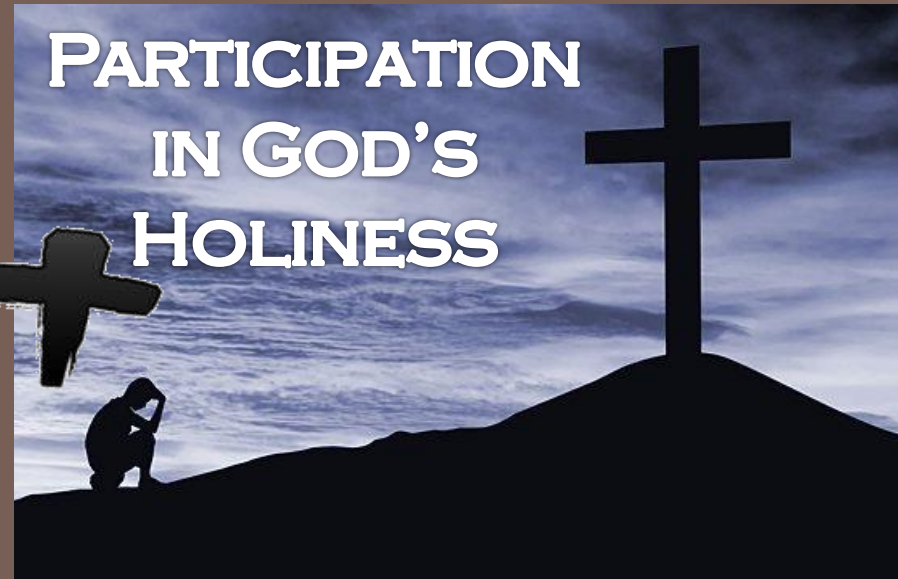
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PARTICIPATION
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HOLINESS



“pursue”

“endure”

“straighten up”

“set”

“consider”

Context

Hebrews 12:3-17

As with last week, the preacher uses imagery as a teaching method. The two he uses in our text are two that were very familiar in the Greek dominated region of Asia Minor...

Context

Hebrews 12:3-17



Context

Hebrews 12:3-17

**We begin today by first looking to Jesus
as our model...**

**...followed by the second directive to
endure for the purpose of instruction...**

**...ending with how to run the race and
pursuing peace and sanctification!**

Outline

Hebrews 12:3-17

“For consider Him who endured such verbal abuse from sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and thus become slack.”



**So you've been encouraged to keep
running the race (12:1-2); now the
teacher will instruct you how to endure!**

And

You are to consider...JESUS!

The Text

Hebrews 12:3

“For consider Him who endured such verbal abuse from sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and thus become slack.”

**His Trials – all illegal
– all with verbal or
physical abuse**



**His scourging and
condemnation under
false charges!**

The Text

Hebrews 12:3



**As He hung from the cross – He was
abused by the thieves, one
repented: also by the Jews and the
Romans!**

The Text

Hebrews 12:3

“You have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed in struggling against sin.”

The comparison is your Lord Jesus...

...like Him you resist sin as your opponent that attempts to “block” you in your race of faith...

The Text

Hebrews 12:4

“You have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed in struggling against sin.”

...unlike Him you haven't “resisted to the point of bloodshed” since you, as of yet, haven't been violently put to death!

The Text

Hebrews 12:4

“Let’s read verses 5 and 6”

**You must never forget your “status”
as God’s child.**


**The preacher then quotes from
Proverbs 3:11-12.**

**We must understand the Preacher’s
reasoning in light of Heb. 2:10-17.**

The Text

Hebrews 12:5-6

“Let’s read verses 7 and 8”

A silhouette of a man, presumably a father, leaning forward and pointing his finger at a smaller silhouette of a child. They are positioned against a background of a sunset or sunrise sky with soft, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and yellow.


**So the father “instructs”
you to endure in the
course that He has set
before you.**

**He “instructs” you since
each of you are His heir.
His legitimate children.**

The Text

Hebrews 12:7-8

“Let’s read verses 7 through 10”


A silhouette of a man in a suit pointing his finger at a small child standing before him. They are positioned against a dramatic sky with clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The man is on the left, leaning slightly forward, and the child is on the right, looking up at the man.

**Since you should respect
your earthly father and
his instruction: how
much more should we
respect our Divine
father, since He teaches
heavenly wisdom!**

The Text

Hebrews 12:7-10

“Let’s read verses 7 through 10”

A silhouette of a man in a suit pointing his finger at a smaller silhouette of a child. They are standing against a background of a sunset or sunrise sky with clouds.

**Our Father teaches us so
that we can share in His
Holiness!**

**This is possible since the
Son was obedient unto
death...and His Body
and Blood now
sanctifies us!**

The Text

Hebrews 12:7-10

**You are compared
with a fruit tree, as
the Lord prunes
and keeps you in
good condition.**

**Cf. John 15:1-8;
Prov. 11:30a;
Is. 32:15-18**



*For the moment
all discipline seems painful
rather than pleasant,
but later it yields
the peaceful fruit of righteousness
to those who have been trained by it.*

The Text

Hebrews 12:11

So what are we to do????

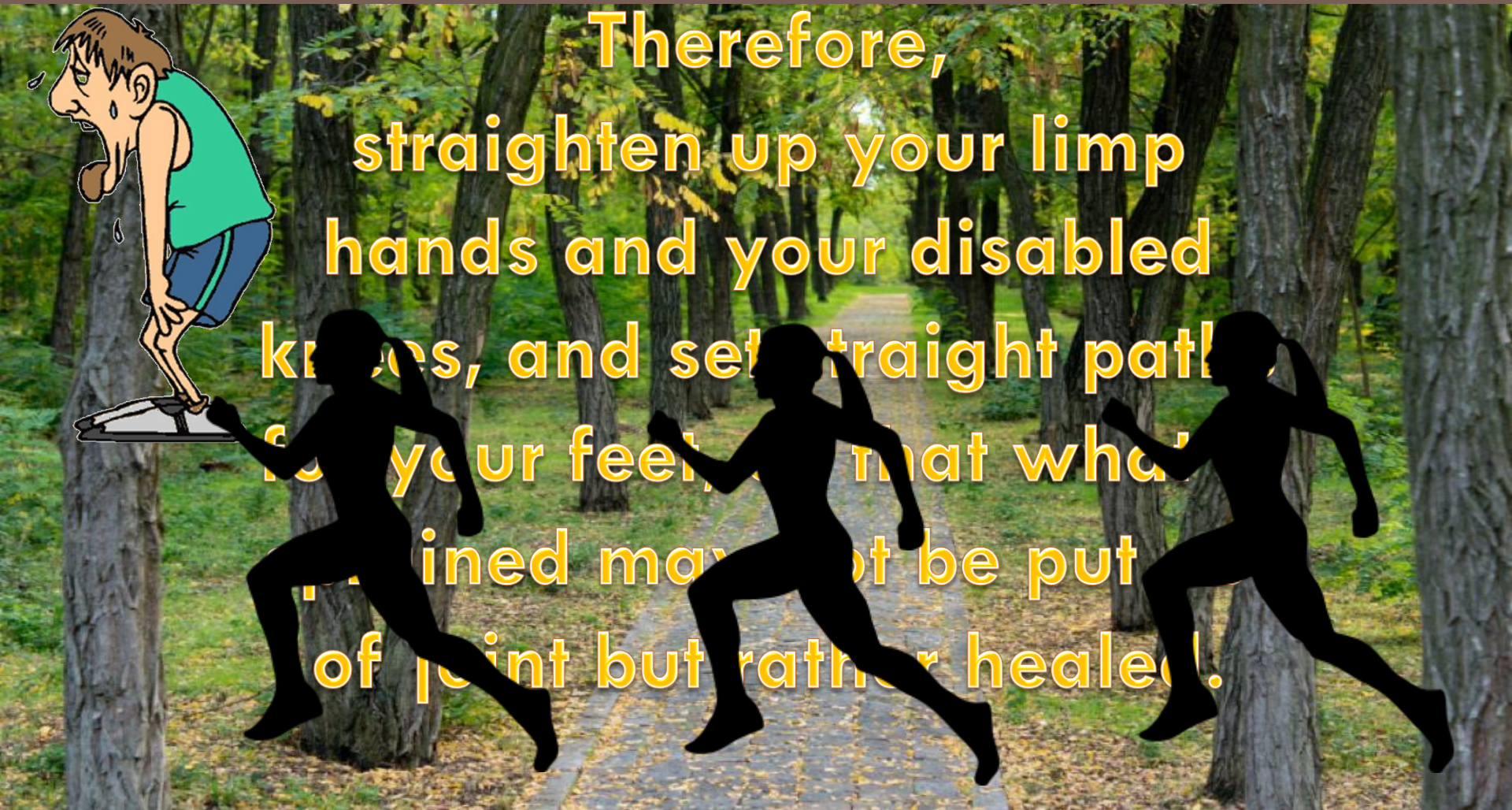


Therefore,
straighten up your limp
hands and your disabled
knees, and set straight paths
for your feet, so that what is
sprained may not be put out
of joint but rather healed.

The Text

Hebrews 12:12-13

So what are we to do????



Therefore,
straighten up your limp
hands and your disabled
knees, and set straight paths
for your feet, that what
is injured may not be put
of joint but rather healed!

The Text

Hebrews 12:12-13

**Now we come to the final
directive...verse 14!**

**+ What you pursue is that which
is freely given to you!**

- Peace**
- Sanctification**

The Text

Hebrews 12:14

What is your MAIN goal...?



The Text

Hebrews 12:14

Peace and Sanctification

+ Congregation is called to exercise oversight by...

1. Ensuring no one misses out on the grace of God.

+ By falling behind & dropping out of the race (15)

- Yet, God's grace can be lost!

The Text

Hebrews 12:15-16

Peace and Sanctification

+ Losing God's Grace

- "...insults the Spirit of grace" (10:29).

The Spirit of grace was poured out at Baptism, but
can be lost by...

- refusing to hear His Word (4:11-16);
- not partaking of His Holy Meal (13:8-10).

To forfeit His favor, one forfeits

Peace/Sanctification

The Text

Hebrews 12:15-16

Peace and Sanctification

2. To neglect God's grace opens the door to pollution & desecration!

+ Secret apostasy...inward attachment to idols (Dt. 29:16-18);

+ Such apostasy is a "root of bitterness."

- creates trouble;

- creates bitterness.

Peace and Sanctification

- + An embittered member must be confronted, pastorally, to prevent the “pollution” of the congregation.
- + Thus, turning away from God, one not only forfeits God’s blessings but would also, eventually, cease to exist!

Peace and Sanctification

3. Last threat comes from a “fornicator or unholy person.”

+ Esau

- Both a fornicator/unholy person
 - Gen 26:34-35; 27:46; 28:8-9.
- Result: selling birthright (Gen 25).
- Not apostasy, but sacrilege, contempt for God's holy blessing.

The Text

Hebrews 12:15-16

BE VIGILANT!

Why the importance of remaining vigilant?

- + Encouragement that the congregation will deal pastorally with each case of fornication – not in legalism, but with the Holy Gospel...
- So the person not be lost (Esau);
- So the person not be rejected by God;
- So the person not miss out on inheritance.

The Text

Hebrews 12:17

BE VIGILANT!

Jesus has given you the authority (Mt. 18:15-18)?

+ Our focus is...



The Text

Hebrews 12:17