

The author of Hebrews called upon us in 12:1-2, Wherefore seeing ye also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the ~~max~~ throne of God. Let us pray:

Our Father, we thank you for Paul and for the way he kept the faith and stood true. We thank you for M. Luther, and J. Calvin, and for the many through church history who have had a great witness for Christ and kept the faith. We think of the persecutions many of them have suffered and the way they have stood true. Our God we think of the many who have made mistakes, of the many who have fallen by the wayside. We think of those who have done a great work and then circumstances entirely beyond their control have seenit shrivel up. We think of those, our Father, who have looked back on their lives and seen that their accomplishments fell far short of what they had expected to do. Our Father we recognize that Satan is the prince of this world. We cannot being in the millennial kingdom. We may have ~~xixub~~ tribulation, we may have persecution. We may have terrible tyranny and despotism in this country if present appearances continue as they are, but we thank you Jesus Christ is able for all things and He wants us to run with patience the race ~~xxx~~ that is set before us, and to keep our eyes on Him. Help us to do so we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.