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**Jesus,
Our Pattern**

Jesus, Our Pattern

The subject of this book is related in a very personal and practical way to the life of each one of us—*God's Will for Your Life*.

Let us begin by asking a personal question: Do you have a known, clear objective for your life? Or are you drifting through life, being carried here and there by the winds of habit and fashion, tossed by waves of circumstances over which you have no control?

There is nothing more tragic in a human life than aimlessness. If you aim at nothing, you may be sure you will hit it. You may have talent, intelligence, and special abilities, but without an objective your life will end in frustration, because you will have accomplished very little of permanent value.

Herein lies one of the greatest benefits and blessings of the Christian life. As God planned it, the Christian life gives each one of us an objective for living. This objective for living is provided for us by our faith in Christ.

The first picture of the Christian life and its objective that we will look at is found in Hebrews:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:1–2)

There are three important truths mentioned here. First, the Christian life is a race marked out for us in advance. We do not need to mark the course out; that has been done for us. We need only to run the race. However, this race is not a dash or a sprint, but it is much more like a long-distance marathon.

To be able to run this long race, we must throw off everything that hinders us or gets in our way. These things may not always be sinful; nevertheless, they keep us from running the race. For that reason we must eliminate them from our lives.

In this race, there is a particular quality that is emphasized: *perseverance* or *endurance*. For us to finish the race, it will require our perseverance or endurance.

Second, we are to fix our eyes on Jesus. Jesus is our pattern and our inspiration. If we take our eyes off Jesus for any length of time, we will lose our ability to run the race successfully.

Third, Jesus is "*the author and perfecter of our faith.*" He is the one who set it all in motion. We may recognize that He is the author of our faith, but we often lose sight of the fact that He is also the perfecter. Jesus not only started it, He is going to complete it.

Both in Scripture and in God's dealings in my life, I have seen that He never starts anything He is not capable of finishing. We need to take heart and be encouraged by this fact. Jesus started us off on this race, and He is going to enable us to finish it. He is the author and the perfecter.

Keep these three important things in mind. First, the Christian life is a race in which the course is marked out ahead of us, and it is going to take endurance to complete the race. Second, to be successful we must fix our eyes on Jesus. He is both our pattern and our inspiration. Third, He is both the author and perfecter of our faith. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, He will not merely set us going, but He will enable us to keep going and bring us successfully and triumphantly to the finish of the race.

In looking to Jesus as both our pattern and our inspiration in this Christian race, we see that the key to His success was His motivation. Unless we really understand His motivation and enter into it with Him, we will find this race too much for us.

In Hebrews 10:5–10, the writer quotes from Psalm 40 and then applies it to Jesus Christ.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.’” First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them” (although the law required them to be made). Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

(Hebrews 10:5–10)

Notice the word “*body*” at the beginning. The Lord says, “*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.*” At the end the comment is, “*By that will [the will of God done by Jesus Christ], we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*” God provided Jesus with a body to sacrifice on our behalf. This theme is going to follow all through this study.

From this passage we see, first, what Jesus’ supreme motivation was: “*I have come to do your will.*” That statement was quoted twice for emphasis so it would not be missed. The paramount purpose and single objective of Jesus throughout His earthly life was to do the will of God. He was absolutely clear about it, and He never swerved from it.

Second, in connection with the first, there was a part written for Jesus to play:

“Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.” It was written in the scroll of God’s Word before He came. Jesus did not write His own part or improvise on the script He was given. He discovered it through studying the Scriptures.

Third, God’s will for Jesus culminated in the sacrifice of Jesus’ own body. God’s purpose and plan in giving Him a body was that Jesus would offer His body as the perfect sacrifice on behalf of mankind.

Note the following three points:

1. Jesus’ supreme motivation was to do God’s will.
2. There was a part for Him already written in the scroll of Scripture.
3. God’s will for Jesus culminated in the sacrifice of His own body.

Each of these three points must have its counterpart in our lives. Every one of those statements that was true about Jesus should be true about us. Each one of us needs the same motivation Jesus had to do God’s will and to discover what is written for us in the scroll of Scripture. Finally, the doing of God’s will in our lives will culminate in the sacrifice of our own bodies.