



## Confusing Isn't It?



- m Why are there so many churches?
- m Why do they all teach different things?
- m Why do they have different creed books?
- m What does God really want me to do?!

It really is confusing!

If you're looking for some simplicity in a world of confusion you're in the right place. The New Hope church of Christ is simply...

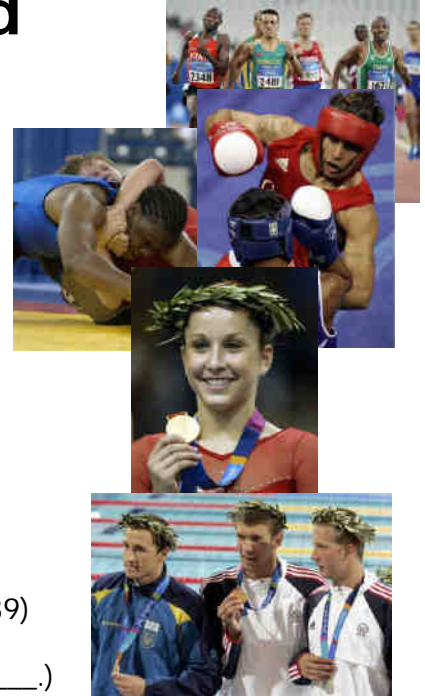
- & a group of believers...
- & followers of the New Testament...
- & individuals saved by God's grace, meeting His conditions & accepting the gift of salvation...
- & worshippers of God... seeking to follow the pattern of New Testament Christianity.

If you simply want to worship God, study His word and serve Him as He directs, you're in the right place and we're glad you're here! A place "Where You're Always Welcome!"



## Going For the Gold (Hebrews 12:1-3)

*Introduction:* The Olympic games have been a vital part of history. The Olympic athlete is a rare and peculiar breed; spending an enormous amount of time training, hour after hour, day after day, year in and year out. They perfect the craft necessary to compete at the highest level of the event with athletes all over the world only to have the competition end in minutes or even seconds. It takes a great deal of sacrifice because winning the gold does not come easy.



- I. Faith and \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_
  - A) Hebrews 10:32-39
  - B) They had confidence (v. 35).
  - C) "You have need of endurance..." (v. 36)
  - D) "But we are not of those who shrink back..." (v. 39)
- II. Run With \_\_\_\_\_ (Run like a \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - A) Faith produces endurance (Heb. 11:1).
  - B) Faith in God and His salvation is essential (Heb. 11:6).
  - C) Those "heroes of faith" have finished the race.
  - D) You are now in the race and must run with endurance.
    1. This is not the 50 yard dash or...
    2. Not even the 100k.
    3. We are running a marathon (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
    4. Revelation 2:1-4
- III. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to Pay (Sacrifice without \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - A) "Lay aside every encumbrance..." (Heb. 12:1)
  - B) "...and the sin which so easily entangles us..." (Heb. 12:1)
  - C) All we have to work with is today (James 4:14).
  - D) Deny self, take up your cross and follow today (Mark 8:32)
- IV. Fix Your Eyes on the \_\_\_\_\_ (Look toward the \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - A) "...fixing our eyes on Jesus..." (Heb. 12:2)
    1. We can't see heaven, the streets of gold or the glory we'll enjoy.
    2. But, we can see Jesus (2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 3:1).
  - B) Jesus endured so much for the sins He did not commit.
  - C) He has conquered Satan and won the victory of the ages (Heb. 2:9-10; 5:8-10).
- V. Make a Strong \_\_\_\_\_ (Push till the \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - A) Do not "grow weary and lose heart" (Heb. 12:3).
  - B) The crowd is cheering you on (Heb. 12:1).
  - C) The crown is awaiting you (1 Cor. 9:25; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10).

*Conclusion:* We are running in a race called life. Each day we pond the pavement as we head toward the finish line. May we have the attitude of Paul (2 Tim. 4:7-8) as we break the tape and enter onto the platform to receive that unfading crown of glory.

(Answers: hope, reward, endurance, winner, price, suffering, goal, reward, finish, end.)