

Jesus is the focus of our lives, right? But I can hear people say, “Yeah! Yeah! I know! But, what are we going to do about COVID-19? What are we going to do about racism? What are we going to do about politics? What are we going to do about _____ (you fill in the **blank**)?”

I was reading through the book of Hebrews this week and was reminded that Hebrews 12 is about *endurance*. **That’s** apropos for 2020! The writer **said...**

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us *run with perseverance* the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, *so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.* — Hebrews 12:1-3 (*Italics added*)

Perseverance flows from *passion*. Passion will keep you in the game. Passion will motivate you to go the extra mile. Passion can move you to sacrifice. Passion can compel you to run with perseverance. Passion flows from *purpose*. When we have a purpose that matters, one that **doesn’t** just make a difference but makes the world different, then we will have passion. Purpose fuels passion. Purpose flows from *perspective*. The writer of Hebrews calls for us to “**look to Jesus**” — fix our eyes on Jesus. The idea in Greek is to do more than simply notice or acknowledge. It is to look at closely, focus attention on, consider/ponder/reflect on — and to do that continually. In other words, let Jesus shape your perspective ... on everything. Jesus puts COVID-19, racism, politics, economics, etc. in the right perspective.

Perspective flows from *priorities*. Jesus is the “**pioneer** and perfecter of our **faith.**” Jesus is Lord! He is the North Star. He **doesn’t** just set our priorities, He *is* our priority. Jesus is the author or founder of life (He started it, created it). He is the perfecter or finisher. In other words, Jesus is the beginning and the end. He is ... LORD!

Priority —> Perspective —> Purpose —> Passion —> Perseverance
“...so that you may not grow weary or lose **heart.**”

This year — 2020 — has become an idiom. We now say, “**Well it is 2020.**” I **don’t** want to rush time, but I am emotionally ready for 2021. Even to admit that means my perseverance is challenged. But **here’s** what I know: If we keep Jesus as Lord of all we will **persevere...** even through 2020.