

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Dump the Baggage

Are you letting your excess baggage _____ your life?

All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” 1 Corinthians 6:12

When Saul was chosen to lead his nation, he was discovered _____ among the baggage.

“Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians *and* from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.’ “But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, ‘No, set a king over us!’ Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans.” And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, “Has the man come here yet?” And the LORD answered, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.”” 1 Samuel 10:17-22

We are instructed to lay aside every weight that so easily becomes _____ baggage.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.” Hebrews 12:1-3

- “You ran well. Who (*what*) hindered you from obeying the truth?” Galatians 5:7

Experiences you had before you became a Christian can _____ you from running your race.

“And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” Ephesians 2:1-3

The pain of hurts, wounds and rejection add extra _____ that can hinder your race.

“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up *his* heel against me.” Psalms 41:9 See Proverbs 17:22

Jesus came to remove the heavy _____ of excess baggage and to give us rest for our souls.

““Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. “For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”” Matthew 11:28-30

- **Paul tells us that he runs and competes to obtain an imperishable crown.** 1 Co 9:24-27

Paul found the rest for his soul in the _____ of the New Creation.

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (See 2 Corinthians 7:2)