

From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL**

30 September, 2018

OVER PACKED!

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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:1-2



Packing for a long trip on an airplane can be trying. Freda and I have known that for many years, but lately the airline restrictions have grown tighter. We relearned that lesson this summer when we went on a mission trip to Athens, Greece. The trip lasted ten days and there was much we needed to take to do the things planned. But the airline restrictions are so tight we could not take everything! So what could we do? First, plan carefully and take only what we needed. Second, pack carefully and neatly. We could get more into a suitcase by rolling or folding clothes and placing them efficiently than we could by just grabbing items as they came out of the dryer and throwing them in. If we over packed and the suitcase weighed too much, we either had to take items out at the airport while standing in line or pay extra, if that was possible. That is not good in a crowded airport with a lot of people waiting in line behind you. And then we had to drag the heavy suitcase through the airports and load and unload them several times. We got an excellent workout! Packing as lightly as possible sure makes the trip easier!

The same is true in our journey of life. The Hebrew writer tells us to leave behind those things which do not help our journey. Leave behind things that are a hindrance and keep us from becoming our best. It may not be a bad thing that holds us back. In fact it may be a good thing but it keeps us from becoming the best we can be. We are told to also leave behind whatever entangles us and trips us up. We need to treat sin like a rattlesnake and stay as far from it as we can. We must not put it in our metaphorical suitcase and lug it around with us as we travel through life.

To help us do this, we must first have a clear mission in life. We must then have a plan to accomplish that mission. This will help us to take only those things necessary to complete our mission. Setting specific goals that are time sensitive and relevant to accomplishing our mission will help us focus on the things that are most important in the Christian life. This will help us pack efficiently and carefully.

Our primary focus should be on Jesus Christ. We must remember what and how much He endured to complete His mission in life here on earth. When we compare what He endured to what we endure in life, we will be encouraged and persevere in our journey of faith.

Do not over pack and journey on!

RICKY