



AWCI SERMON NOTE & *Announcements*

DATE: Feb. 22nd, 2026
SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

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SERMON TITLE: The Race Set Before Us: Built to Finish

45-DAY COUNTDOWN TO EASTER: LET'S PRAY!

As we journey toward Easter Sunday, join us in covering our church, guests, and services in daily prayer. Let's believe together for breakthrough, renewed hope, and lives transformed by the power of Jesus!

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND SCRIPTURE, SERMON POINTS

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV)

“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...”

INTRODUCTION

There are moments in history when you can feel the weight of what came before you—moments that remind you that you did not arrive here by accident, nor did you arrive alone. Every opportunity, every open door, every platform we stand on bears the fingerprints of faith, sacrifice, endurance, and prayer. Hebrews 12:1–2 speaks directly to this reality:

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

During Black History Month, this passage resonates even more deeply. We are reminded that we are not starting from scratch, nor are we running alone. We are surrounded by legacy, by prayers, by witnesses who finished their race and now cheer us forward. The question is not whether we have a legacy behind us—

The question is: **How will we run the race in front of us?**

SERMON POINTS

1. Remember You Are Not Running Alone

“We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...” (Hebrews 12:1)

- Psalm 46:1 – “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
- Hebrews 13:5 – “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
- Isaiah 41:10 – “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you...”

You are surrounded—by the prayers of those who came before, by the presence of God, and by a community of faith that endures.

2. Lay Aside What Slows You Down

“Let us lay aside every weight...” (Hebrews 12:1)

- Galatians 5:7 – “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?”
- Philippians 3:13–14 – “Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal...”
- Romans 12:2 – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Not everything that slows us down is sin—sometimes it's simply weight. Let go of shame, comparison, doubt, or anything that hinders your pace.

3. Run With Endurance, Not Emotion

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” (Hebrews 12:1)

- James 1:12 – “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life...”
- Galatians 6:9 – “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
- Romans 5:3–4 – “We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Endurance is the mark of those who finish well. Emotion is fleeting, but endurance is sustained by faith.

4. Stay in Your Lane

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...” (Hebrews 12:1–2)

- Galatians 6:4–5 – “But let each one examine his own work... For each one shall bear his own load.”
- Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Those who made history did so by responding to God's call on their lives—not by comparing themselves to others. Stay focused on your assignment.

5. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2)

- Philippians 1:6 – “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”
- Isaiah 53:3 – “He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”
- Colossians 1:17 – “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”
- Psalm 34:5 – “They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.”

In a world full of distractions, clarity comes from keeping your focus on Christ. He is both the author and the finisher of your faith.

BEYOND THE MESSAGE

This message doesn't just inspire; it redefines identity. It reminds us that our lives are woven into a greater story. We are not random; we are rooted. When we realize we are surrounded by witnesses and sustained by God, insecurity loses its grip, fear loosens, and confidence rises—not arrogance, but assurance. We become part of a faith story that did not begin with us and will not end with us. That realization builds spiritual stability and boldness for everyday life.

This message also gives permission to release what has silently slowed us down. Many believers carry invisible weights—shame, comparison, trauma, doubt, or pressure to prove themselves. Not everything that slows us is sin; some things are simply weight. When we recognize this, we gain courage and clarity to let go, finding freedom to run lighter and move forward with intentional release. That freedom changes how we pray, work, lead, and relate to others.

Most importantly, this message re-centers our focus on Jesus. In a culture crowded with noise and comparison, fixing our eyes on Christ restores our perspective. We stop running by emotion and start running with endurance. We measure impact not by visibility, but by faithfulness. With a steady gaze on Jesus, we find peace in pressure, courage in uncertainty, and hope in long seasons of waiting.

SUNDAY MORNING STEWARDSHIP DECREES

High Five Evangelism Campaign: Digital Prayer Card

March 1 – April 5, 2026

2026 Theme: Intentionality With Impact – One More Time

Flagship Scripture: Colossians 3:23 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

Join us as we embark on 45 days of purposeful outreach leading to Easter! Be intentional and impactful: pray for five, invite five, and reach out to five people who may not have a church home.

How to Use This Card:

- List the names of five people you want to lift in prayer.
- Pray for them daily, asking God to move in their lives and guide your invitation.
- Stand on these promises:

Numbers 6:24–26 (NIV):

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV):

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Together, let's make an impact—one prayer, one invitation, one life at a time. Let's do it with intentionality, believing God will do more than we can imagine!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: There are multiple ways to sign up for an event. You can scan the QR code, visit our website, or sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer under the event registration section.

Read the Bible in a Year.

Scan QR code or visit the following site:
<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/64913-we-believe-a-journey-of-faith-in-action>



Feb 11th-March 25th- Colossians Bible Study Series

Feb 22nd - Youth Evening Gathering- **4:00 pm-6:00 pm**

Feb 27th- Young Adult Gathering- **6:30 pm-8:30 pm**

Feb 28th-Covenant Couples Fellowship -**11 am-1 pm**

March 1st- Baby Dedications- **During 11 am Service**

March 1st- Next Step Class at **1pm- -3pm**- Registration Online

March 1st- Women's Ministry Fellowship- **5:00 pm**

March 2st- AWC Women's Fellowship- **5:0pm-6:30pm**

March 22nd- Water Baptism - **During 11 am Service**

March 28 - Covenant Couples Fellowship -**11 am-1 pm**

Easter Mass Choir Rehearsals for all who are interested.

Rehearsal Date:

March 12th, March 19th, and April 2nd at 7:00 pm.

April 17-18- SCCOG Women's Conference

Regular Registration \$65.00

Walk In \$75.00 (After 3/16/26)

Scan QR code to sign up today or visit

<https://www.sccog.com/women2/>



Registration for the Jamaica Mission Trip is currently open. For more information, contact Missionary Director, Dr. Samuel King.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

- Every Sunday at 10:10 am-10:55 am.

Men's Ministry Meeting

- Every 3rd Saturday at 8:30 AM.
- At Agape Worship Center International
- All men are invited.
- More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

Breakfast For Champions: Weekday Devotion & Prayer

- Monday-Friday at 7 am
- Call In: 717-908-1690
 - Access Code: 577625

Intercessory Prayer

- Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Virtual Midday Bible Study

- Every Thursday at noon
 - Call In: (470)869-2200 (US East)
 - Meeting ID: 393-678-9202
 - Virtual:meetings.ringcentral.com/j/3936789202