

Therefore ...

BY SHARON RAPP

LEADER GUIDE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Opening: Read aloud, all together, **Hebrews 12:1-2**, adding the prayer which follows:

Therefore, ^Qsince we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ^Rlet us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and ^Slet us run with endurance ^Tthe race that is set before us, ^Ulooking to Jesus, ^Vthe founder and perfecter of our faith, ^Wwho for the joy that was set before him ^Xendured the cross, ^Ydespising the shame, and ^Zis seated at the right hand of the throne of God. "Heavenly Father, share with me Your holiness, and let me see You face-to-face eternally. Amen." *

Introduction: When you read the title above, do you think cause and effect? Reason and result? Explanation and conclusion? Brainstorm several synonyms for **therefore**.

For the following, list the cause or reasoning, synonym if used, then effect or result:

Exodus 4:10-12 God makes mouths / now therefore /

Hebrews 7:22-25 _____

1 Timothy 1:14-16 _____

How does **Hebrews 11:1-3** serve as the cause or reasoning for **12:1-2**? _____

Another role of **therefore** is linking segments of timelines. Using the superscript letters within the opening verses, assign the ten phrases to the past, present and/or future. Note: some will fit more than one category.

Past: V, _____ **Present:** Q, _____

Future: S, _____

Paul experienced therefore: *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this [a thorn was given me in the flesh], that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:8-10).*

How do these references enrich the phrases of the opening passage?

(Q) **Ephesians 2:19-20** _____

(R) **1 Corinthians 10:12-13** _____

(S) **Romans 5:1-5** _____

(T) **1 Corinthians 9:24-25** _____

(U) **Hebrews 10:19-23** _____

(V) **2 Corinthians 5:14-21** _____

(W) **Luke 24:25-27** _____

(X) **Isaiah 53:3-6, 11a** _____

(Y) **Philippians 2:5-11** _____

(Z) **Hebrews 1:1-3** _____

The reason is our sin. The result is Jesus' death on the cross for our redemption. **Therefore**, what was Paul's witness in **2 Timothy 4:7-8**? _____

As Time Allows

Locate and discuss additional passages which include **therefore** or a synonym.

Make a list of witnesses mentioned in **Hebrews 11**. Add witnesses important in your own life.

Compare **Isaiah 53** with **Hebrews 12:1-2**.

Closing Prayer: "The Christian life is an endurance race, run with remembrance of the saints who have already finished. But, most of all, we look to Jesus and His cross. In Him, our race is already won. Lord Jesus, save me from my sin, which clings so closely, and give me endurance to do Your will. Amen." **

Closing Hymn: Sing or say together "Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus" (LSB 529) or "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (LSB 422; LW 100; TLH 179).

* *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 2125

** *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 2124

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