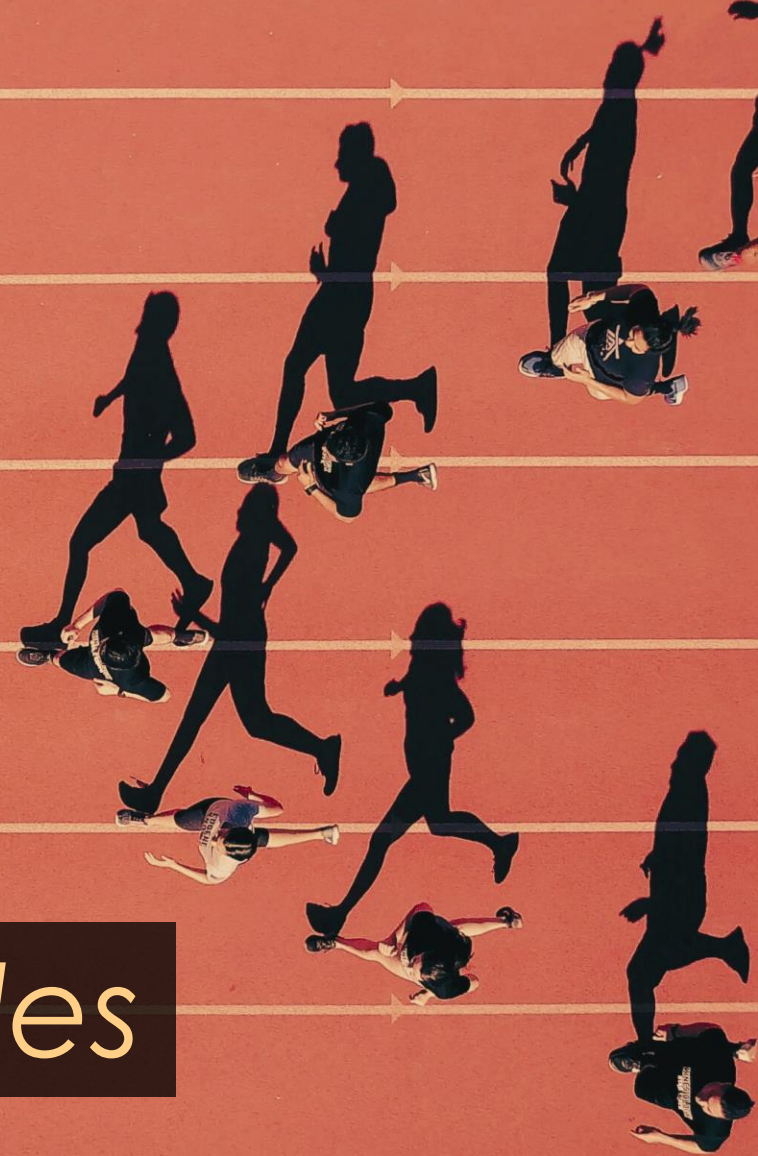


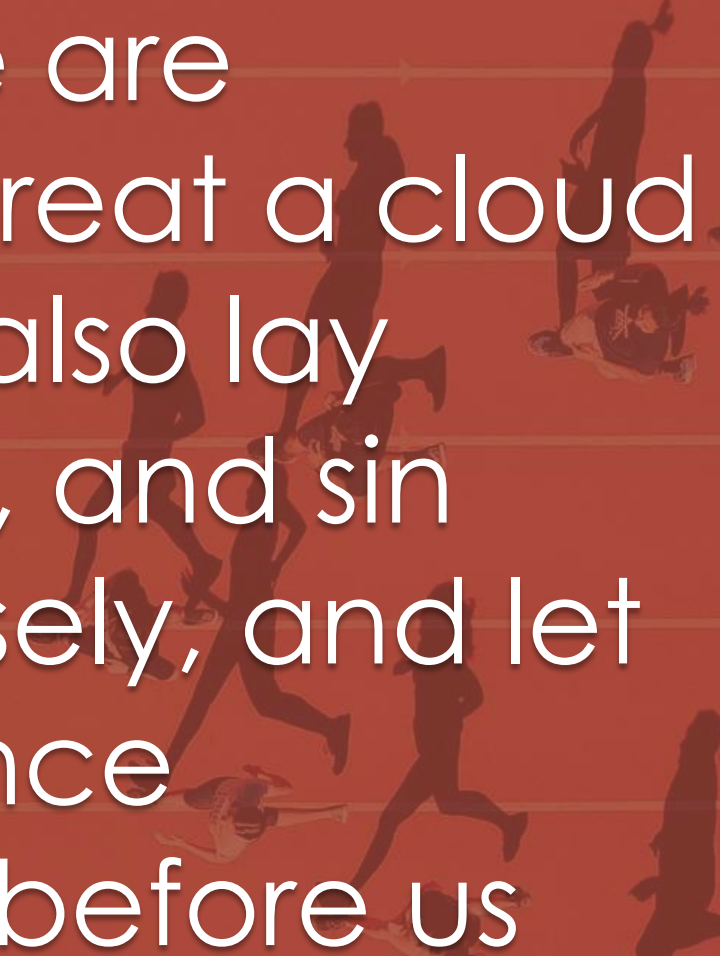
*2024 Congregational Theme*

# THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US

*As Married Couples*



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

The background of the slide features a dark red color with a pattern of white horizontal lines. Overlaid on this are several black silhouettes of runners in various stages of a race, some in full stride and others appearing to be struggling or falling, which visually represents the 'race' mentioned in the text.

***Hebrews 12:1***



<i>January</i>	<b>The Race That Is Set Before Us... (Introduction)</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>As a Local Church</b>
<i>March</i>	<b>As Spiritual Leaders</b>
<i>April</i>	<b>As Men</b>
<i>May</i>	<b>As Women</b>
<i>June</i>	<b>As Married Couples</b>
<i>July</i>	<b>As Parents &amp; Children</b>
<i>August</i>	<b>As Youth &amp; Aging</b>
<i>September</i>	<b>As Employers &amp; Employees</b>
<i>October</i>	<b>As Earthly &amp; Heavenly Citizens</b>
<i>November</i>	<b>As Sinners</b>
<i>December</i>	<b>As Saints</b>

# The Foundational Principles

*Matthew 19:1-12*

1. Marriage is designed by God.
2. Marriage is regulated by God.
3. Marriage is intended for those who are able to receive it.

# The Meaning

## *Ephesians 5:22-33*

- Marriage is designed to be a model for the relationship between Christ and his church.
- A husband who leads like Christ will lead in a way that puts his wife's needs before his own (just as Christ died for the church).
- A wife who submits like the church will submit in a way that honors her husband's direction (just as the church honors the direction of Christ).

# The Practical Applications

## *Colossians 3*

- Many marriages are destroyed by some form of sexual immorality (v. 5; cf. 1 Cor. 7:1-5; Heb. 13:4)
- Many marriages are destroyed by anger, wrath, malice, or slander (vv. 6-8)
- Many marriages are destroyed by some form of dishonesty (v. 9)

# The Practical Applications

## *Colossians 3*

- All marriages will benefit from compassion, kindness, humility, meeekness, patience, and forgiveness (vv. 12-13)
- “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (v. 14; cf. 1 Pet. 4:8).
- A marriage filled with thankfulness is a marriage ruled by peace (v. 15).