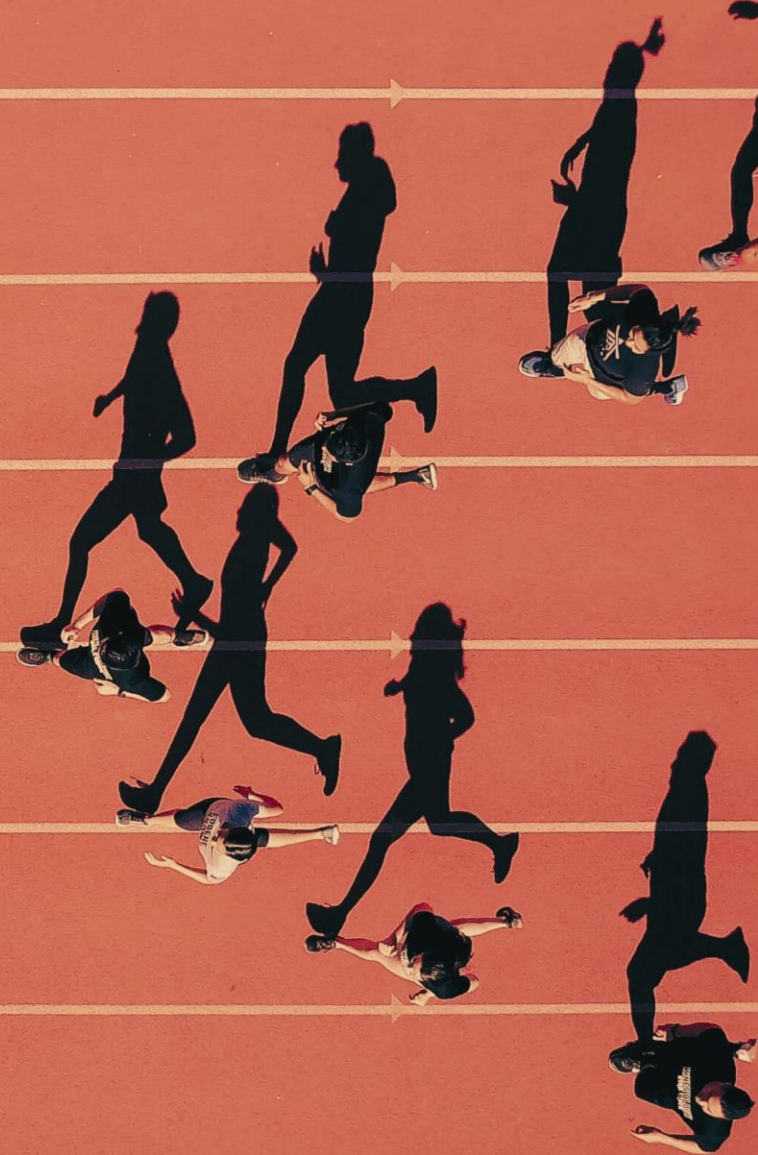


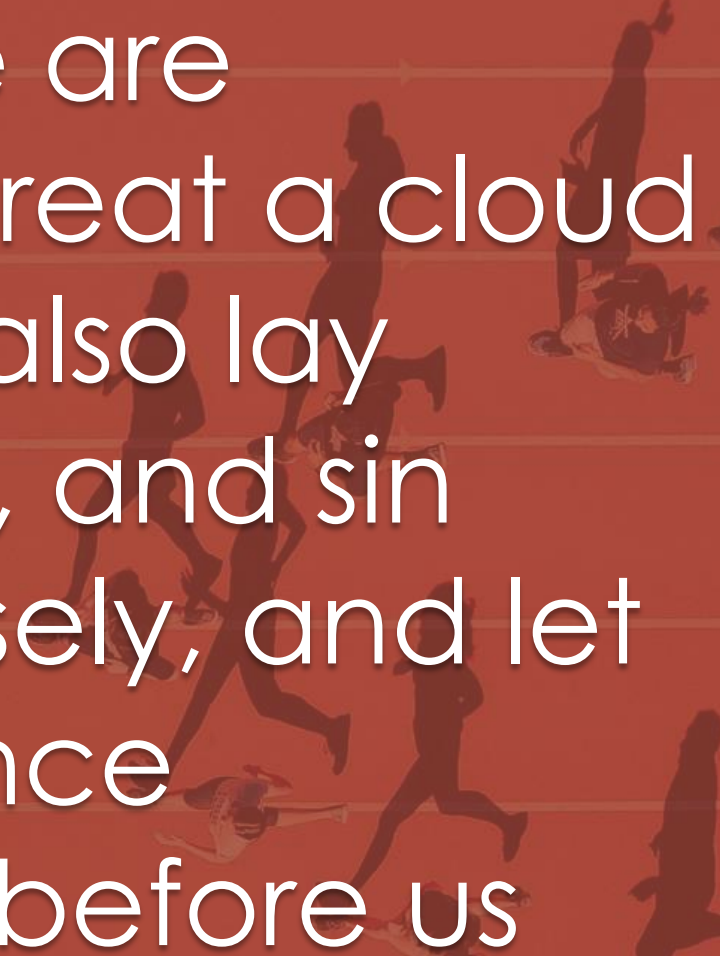
*2024 Congregational Theme*

# THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US

*As Men*



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 background are several black silhouettes of runners in various stages of a race, some running and some appearing to be in a struggle or falling, positioned primarily on the right side of the frame.

***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>

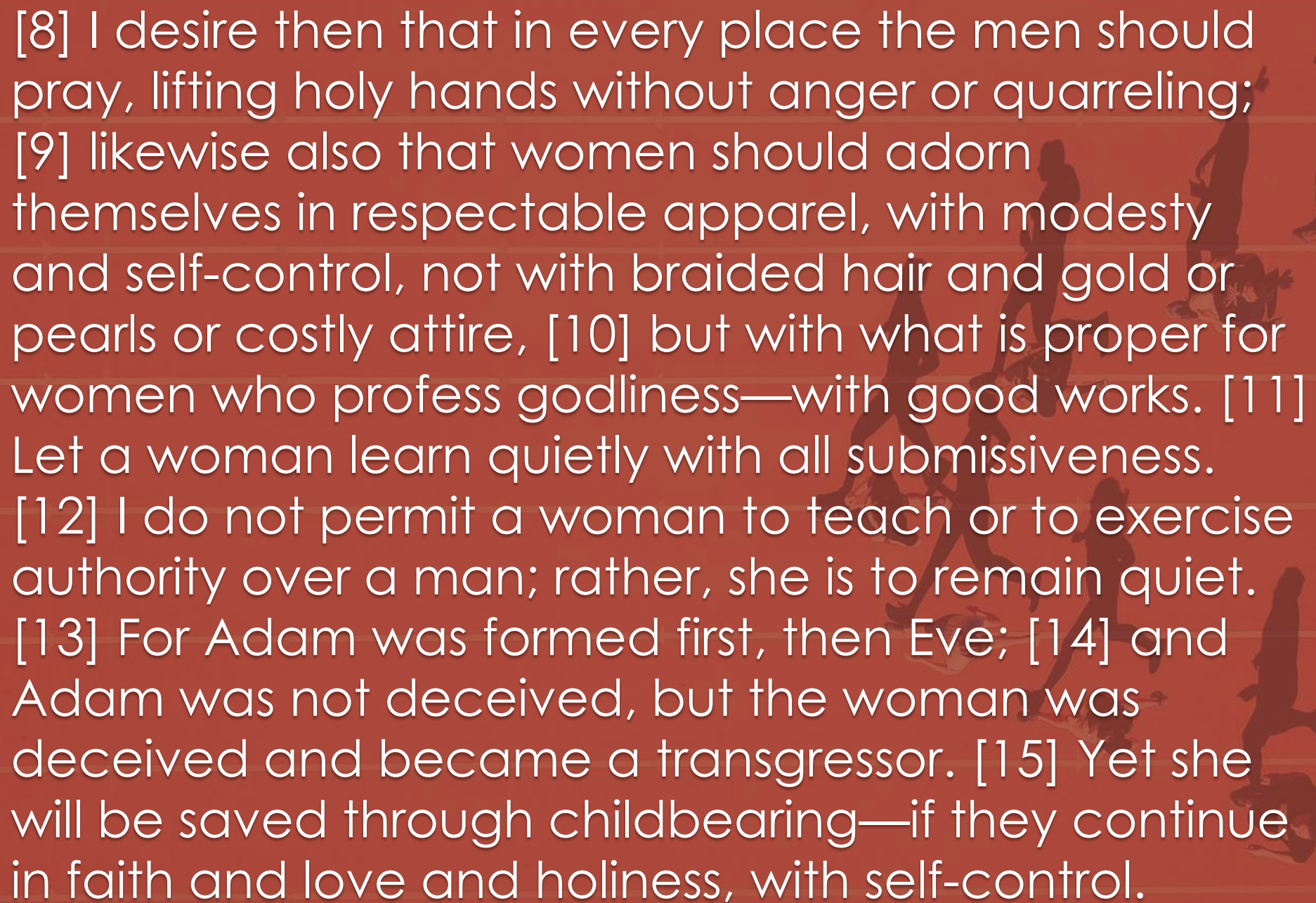
[26] Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God has specifically  
designed **men** to be  
leaders and defenders.

The background of the slide is a solid reddish-brown color. On the right side, there are several dark silhouettes of people in various running poses, scattered across the vertical space. The text is centered on the left side of the slide.





[8] I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; [9] likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, [10] but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. [11] Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. [12] I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. [13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve; [14] and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. [15] Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

***1 Timothy 2:8-15***

[28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. [29] I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; [30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

***Acts 20:28-31***

[22] “If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

[23] “If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, [24] then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor’s wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

***Deuteronomy 22:22-24***



[25] “But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. [26] But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor, [27] because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her.

***Deuteronomy 22:25-27***

**1. Men ought to act as leaders and defenders without becoming domineering or vengeful.**

- *1 Pet. 5:3; Rom. 12:19*

**2. Men ought to present themselves in a way that embraces their masculinity.**

- *Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:13-16*

**3. Men ought to find their model for manhood in Jesus Christ.**

- *Heb. 10:5-7*

[5] Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

[6] in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

[7] Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

***Hebrews 10:5-7***