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Keep on.. Running



Keep on.. Running

There's no doubt about it, the gathering of magnificent vehicles from yesteryear is a wonderful occasion for young and old alike. Whether from the Vintage, Veteran or Classic category, these treasured old beauties form such a stately spectacle as they chug their way



along. But of course, given their age the most important challenge facing each owner is to help them... keep on running!

There is however another aspect of life where this objective is even more important...

Destination

Everyone taking part in the Annual Vintage Car Rally wants their vehicle to look its best. Yet when it comes to our personal lives we're told that acceptance by God never depends upon how attractive our appearance might be, or how impressive our image...



People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

Those who take part may come together from many different directions, yet there is only one route to a right relationship with God. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, makes this clear...

I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

But this is only part of the story...

Breakdown



The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: ... impurity... idolatry... hatred... jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition... and envy...

Galatians 5:19-21

...and God says that this will have serious consequences for us all...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully, special help is at hand.....

Assistance

Despite all the care and maintenance provided for these ageing beauties, an understanding smile and helpful shove can often be required!

Yet as we consider our eternal destiny only the unique intervention of Christ Jesus can offer the help that we need...

...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18

But this isn't thrust on us automatically; first our lives must take a complete change of direction... turning away from all we know to be wrong...

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Isaiah 55:7

...and in asking the risen Christ Jesus into our lives by His Spirit, to become our Saviour and Lord, so we can know forgiveness and a completely new beginning...

If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Persistence

For some, simply taking part will have meant many hours of loving care and maintenance... a real demonstration of commitment.

And in a similar way all who would become true followers of the Lord Jesus must face up to His call to a level of loyalty and dedication beyond all other... to 'keep on running'...



Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Luke 9:23, 24

Challenge

To have the responsible care of a vehicle of a bygone age is full of challenges... the constant battle with rust,



difficulty in finding spare parts, etc, etc.... However, the greatest challenge of all is presented to us by God...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Yet how easy it is to ignore or reject Him, the consequences of which are surely unthinkable...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...

John 3:18

Therefore, make no mistake: death is not a 'dead end' but a fork in the road! What will be YOUR destination?