

The Book of Hebrews

The Superiority of Christ

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Introduction

The Book of Hebrews

avoided the Epistle / warnings" / too difficult / book is clear

Many people have avoided the Epistle to the Hebrews and, consequently, have robbed themselves of practical spiritual help. Some have avoided this book because they are "afraid of it." The "warnings" in Hebrews have made them uneasy. Others have avoided this book because they think it is "too difficult" for the average Bible student. To be sure, there are some profound truths in Hebrews, and no preacher or teacher would dare to claim that he knows them all! But the general message of the book is clear and there is no reason why you and I should understand and profit from it.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

about the superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Better

The word *better* is used thirteen (13x) times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation

- over the Hebrew system of religion.
- Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4).
- He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19)
- because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant,
- which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Perfect

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen (14x) times. It means a perfect standing before God.

- This perfection could never be accomplished by the Levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11)
- or by the Law (Heb. 7: 19),
- nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1).

- Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Eternal

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - .

- Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9).
- Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12)
- and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15).
- 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8)
- and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21).
- "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Combine all 3

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings

- are eternal
- and they give us a perfect standing before God.

The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations – cross – right hand

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

- Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God
- Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man
- Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses
- Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete
- Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest
- Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance
- Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek
- Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete
- Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full
- Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient
- Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith
- Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith
- Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Warnings / true believers / persecuted / false teachers / forgetting the word

This Book speaks on the Superiority of Jesus, but also, there are warnings given in this book to Believers who were drifting away from the Lord, and walking away from Him. These people were second-generation believers, having been won to Christ by those who had known Jesus Christ during His ministry here on earth (Heb 2:3). They were true believers (Heb 3:1) and not mere

professors. They had been persecuted because of their faith (Heb 10:32-34; 12:4; 13:13-14), and yet they had faithfully ministered to the needs of others who had suffered (Heb 6:10). But they were being seduced by teachers of false doctrine (Heb 13:9), and were in danger of forgetting the true Word that their first teachers, now dead, had taught them (Heb 13:7).

standstill spiritually / going backward / forsaken the regular worship / backsliding

The tragic thing about these believers is that they were at a standstill spiritually and danger of going backward (Heb 5:12). Some of them has even forsaken the regular worship services (Heb 10:25) and were not making spiritual progress (Heb 6:1). In Christian Life, if you do not go forward, you go backward; there is no permanent standing still. If you are not as on fire for Jesus Christ today, as you were yesterday, then you are backslidden.

6 Warnings given in the Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

Progression

Look at the progression.

- If we do not listen to God's Word and really hear it, we will start to **drift**.
- Neglect always leads to drifting, in things material and physical as well as spiritual.
- As we drift from the Word, we start to **doubt** the Word; because faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).
- We start to get hard hearts, and this leads to spiritual sluggishness, which produces **dullness** toward the Word. We become "dull of hearing"-lazy listeners!
- We then **depart** altogether, they have no thought of the Word and its meaning in their life.
- This leads to a **despiteful** attitude toward the Word to the extent that we willfully disobey God;
- and this gradually develops into a defiant, **denying** attitude-we almost "dare" God to do anything!

What does God do during regression / keeps speaking / chastens

Now what does God do while this spiritual regression is going on? He keeps speaking to us, encouraging us to get back to the Word. If we fail to listen and obey, then He begins to chasten us. This chastening process is the theme of Hebrews 12, the climactic chapter in the epistle. "The Lord shall judge His *people*" (Heb. 10:30, italics mine). God does not allow His children to become "spoiled brats" by permitting them to willfully defy His Word. He always chastens in love.

applicable to us / strategic times / temple destroyed / God shaking their world / true trust

This letter is very applicable to us today, believers living in America, for this letter was written to believers at a strategic time in history. The temple was still standing and the sacrifices were still being offered. But in a few years, both the city and the temple would be destroyed. The Jewish nation would be scattered, and this would include Jewish believers in Jesus Christ. The ages were colliding! God was "shaking" the order of things (Heb. 12:25-29). He wanted His people to have their feet on the solid foundation of faith; He did not want them to trust in things that would vanish.

church today is living similar circumstances / scaffolding / solid foundation

I believe that the church today is living similar circumstances. Everything around us is shaking and changing. People are discovering that they have been depending on the "scaffolding" and not on the solid foundation. Even God's people have gotten so caught up in this world's system that their confidence is not in the Lord, but in money, buildings, programs and other passing

material things. As God continues to "shake" society, the scaffolding will fall away; and God's people will discover that their only confidence must be in the Word of God.

Established

God wants our hearts to be "established with grace" (Heb. 13:9). That word "established" is used, in one form or another, eight times in Hebrews. It means: "to be solidly grounded, to stand firm on your feet." It carries the idea of strength, reliability, confirmation, permanence. This is a key message in Hebrews: "You can be secure while everything around you is falling apart! We have a "kingdom which cannot be moved (Heb. 12:28). God's Word is steadfast (Heb 2:2) and so is the hope we have in Him (Heb 6:19).

superiority and sufficiency / foundational

This Book will bless you tremendously. As we see His superiority and sufficiency over our lives and in our lives, we will be drawn closer to Him. This book is foundational for your Christianity.

Hebrews Chapter 1

Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Passage: Hebrews 1:1-3

Title: Seven Characteristics of Christ

Summary: This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done. This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life. The Epistle to the Hebrews exalts the person and the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first three verses set this high and holy theme which is maintained throughout the entire book.

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

exalts the person and the work / 3 verses

The Epistle to the Hebrews exalts the person and the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first three verses set this high and holy theme which is maintained throughout the entire book.

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

God - What a way to start a book - God. Normally a book will start with, Paul and apostle, James a bondservant, but this one starts out with pure power, God!

argued over the centuries

It has been argued over the centuries who wrote this book. Some say it was Luke, some say Paul, some say Apollos. Whoever it was they had to have an in-depth knowledge of theology, and the Old Testament Scriptures. They also had a mastery of the Greek Language (The writer quotes almost entirely from the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of Hebrew OT. Also, the first 4 verses are all one sentence in the Greek, and it is grammatically perfect.) To me all the signs point to Paul, but as we all know this book was penned by the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Wasted time / not writer but author

So there I just summed up what caused me 80 hours of research in Bible College. Wasted time. Theologians argue over and over on who wrote this book, wasted time. It isn't the writer that changes lives, but the Author - Jesus Christ:

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Not ink but Spirit

It isn't the ink on the paper, but the Spirit of God who flows from the pages into our, changing our minds:

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

doesn't set out to prove / example / not to make God acceptable

Not only doesn't this book start out with who wrote it; it also doesn't set out to prove the existence of God. It starts out - God! Take this example also. We do not have to prove to people God's existence, He doesn't, and therefore neither do we. He is alive forever more and He doesn't have to prove His existence. Listen, the gospel of Jesus Christ is not to make God acceptable to man, but to make man acceptable to God. His existence is not the issue, the issue at hand is who is this man, the God-man, named Jesus Christ who walked this earth 2,000 years ago. What does He mean to you, for your eternity depends upon knowing who He was.

God has spoken

who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, - God has spoken to man through many ways:

- He has spoken through creation - heavens declare your glory (Psalm 19:1 / Rom 1:20)
- He has spoken to our conscience – (Rom 1:28)
- He has spoken to man through angels - (throughout the OT & NT)
- He has spoken to man through the early fathers (Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and on)
- He has spoken to man through prophets and priests – (Isaiah, Ezekial, Jonah, and on)

All of these / But finally the Son – there is nothing more to say

All of these, creation around us, conscience within us, prophets among us, and angels from on high. They all spoke, but the message wasn't complete until the Son came. Then everything and all things have been said; there is nothing more to say.

(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

We Have a Speaking God

We have a speaking God, and aren't you glad that God speaks to us? He truly does. And he has this Word and he has spoken it to us, and it is a beautiful Word. It is a life-giving Word, and it is a life-leading Word. It will lead your life. It will lead your marriage. It will lead your child rearing. It will lead your singleness. It will lead your ministry. It will lead your joy or lack thereof. And I look forward to, every morning, to setting aside time with my journal, Bible open, pen in hand, because I know and I believe without a doubt, I have a speaking God, and He's going to speak to me through this Word.

It's going to lead me for my day. It's going to lead me on the moment that I'm in, the things that I'm facing, the challenges before me. And I just give thanks, and I know you do too. And we can praise him right now. We have a speaking God who speaks to us through the Word that's living and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword. And we'll be there in a few chapters when we hit chapter four.

(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

(Hebrews 1:3 NKJV) who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Listed here in these two verses are 7 Characteristics of Jesus Christ:

- He is Heir of all things: v2
- He is the Creator of all things: v2
- He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3
- He is the Expressed Image of God: v3
- He Holds all things together with His word: v3
- He is the Purifier of our sins: v3
- He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3

These first three verses almost perfectly outline the 13 chapters of the Book of Hebrews:

Chapters 1-2

- He is Heir of all things: v2
- He is the Creator of all things: v2
- He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3
- He is the Expressed Image of God: v3
- He Holds all things together with His word: v3

Chapters 3-10

- He is the Purifier of our sins: v3

Chapters 11-13

- He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3

1.) He is Heir of all things: v2 - whom He has appointed heir of all things

Everything is His, but there is only one thing He wants - His saints:

(Ephesians 1:18 NKJV) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Jesus' inheritance is you, the saints, the Christian believers.

(Matthew 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The field is the world; we are the treasures in that field, the inheritance that came with buying the field. He bought the world with His blood, and said it was worth every drop.

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

self-esteem, they need Christ-esteem / precious and priceless

The world doesn't need more self-esteem, they need Christ-esteem. If a person would understand that they are His treasure, His inheritance, if a person could see how precious and priceless they are to the Lord, they would never consider themselves undesirable and worthless.

2.) He is the Creator of all things: v2 - through whom also He made the worlds;

Six days / dirty hands / crowning jewel

Six days to create the world, he spoke and they came into existence, but He had to get His hands dirty to create you – the crowning jewel of His Creation. You are His Masterpiece and Poem.

Colossians 1:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

(John 1:10 NKJV) He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

If Jesus created all things, then He able to handle anything that come up in my life.

3.) He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3 - who being the brightness of His glory

Brightness – the root word means to “beam forward” and shine.

Revelation no sun or moon

There will be no sun or Moon for Jesus will illuminate eternity, for the Lamb is the Light.

(Revelation 21:23 NKJV) The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Light of the Holy of Holies

In the Old Testament we saw that inside the tabernacle/temple there was a lampstand that lit the Holy Place of the temple, but behind the veil in the Holy of Holies, there was no instrument of light, for the glory of God illuminated the Holy of Holies.

(Exodus 40:34 KJV) Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

(Leviticus 16:2 KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

The Veil is torn / man can come into His Glory thru Jesus

The High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies, and that was only once a year, and he would make an offering for the sins of man. But now the veil has been torn in two, and man can come into the presence of His glory - for today He has spoken to us through the Son, who is *the brightness of His glory*

Christ is to the Father what the rays of the sun are to the sun. He is the radiance of God's glory. As it is impossible to separate the rays from the sun, it is also impossible to separate Christ's glory from the nature of God.

4.) He is the Expressed Image of God: v3 - and the express image of His person

Image - karakter, khar-ak-tare'; a graver (the tool or the person), i.e. (by impl.) engraving (["character"], the figure stamped, i.e. an exact copy or [fig.] representation):--express image.

Made Coins / 2 things – same image

This is how they made coins in that day. A stamp with the image would strike the coin, and the coin would have the same image as was on the stamp. So you would have two different things, but the same image.

Phillip said show us the Father and we will be happy, Jesus said you see Him now.

John 14:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

5.) He Holds all things together with His word: v3 - and upholding all things by the word of His power

Jesus Atomic Glue

The Sustainer. Jesus is the atomic glue that holds the world together. His word holds it together. Scientist can not figure out what holds an atom together. What holds the atom together, what holds every material thing together, it is none other than Jesus Christ - His word.

(Colossians 1:17 NKJV) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Do you have this down / What holds your world together

If you do not have that down yet, you need to. What is going to hold your thing together? Your marriage, your parenting, your mind, what is going to hold your world from flying apart? Only one thing, the word, and the power behind the word. It is by the power of His word all things are sustained. Any couple that is in the word, and I mean truly in the word, will not split apart. I am convince of that because it is the rightness of His word, and the leading and direction it gives your life.

Don't go against the Word / Reason God is shaking the World

It is foolish to go against His word, for things start flying apart when you do. There is a reason why God is shaking everything around us, He wants us to turn from the things of this world and stop depending on them, and center our attention on the One, Him, who holds all things together.

6.) He is the Purifier of our sins: v3 - when He had by Himself purged our sins

By Himself - means two things. It means through Himself, which is through His body.

(John 1:29 NKJV) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Secondly, it means by Himself, as in all alone.

No one worthy to take the scroll, but the Lamb, and the Lamb only:

Revelation 5:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

(Matthew 27:46 NKJV) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

written Hebrew Christians / high priest – holy of holies

This is written to Hebrew Christians, they would know what it meant. The High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies, once a year on the Day of Atonement, and by himself, make atonement for the people. Jesus took our sin, by Himself, he did the work, and it is finished.

7.) He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3 - sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Seated / no seat in Tabernacle/ work is done

He is seated, the works are done. In the Old Testament, there was no seat in the tabernacle. The reason there was no seat was because the work was never done. The sacrifice for sin had to be done over and over. Jesus is seated, because the work, the sacrifice for sin, is done.

Intercession

What does he do now?

(Romans 8:34 NKJV) Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

He is making intercession for us. So his ruling over us is based on intercession for us. He is not lording over us, but praying for us, caring for us.

In fact, in chapter 7, it says "He lives" to make intercession for us; and based on everything we have just read, it is easy for me to say and declare, that His whole purpose and desire (even though He is God), is to live for me and see me through this world and into His arms. That is amazing love!

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Husbands, take this example, we are to be interceding for our bride, praying for her, washing her with the word so that we might present her a spotless bride before the Father.

Most Beautiful Aspect of God / the Curse

(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son

The most beautiful aspect of God would never have been revealed had it not been for the fall. For we see a God willing to transcend from the throne, walk amongst man, and take the curse upon Himself those 6 horrific hours that Friday, all to redeem man unto Himself.

Meditate over these traits, they are truly beautiful. The more we grow in our understanding of the Lord, the greater He will become to us. He doesn't become bigger to us, but we see Him more clearly, and we can walk with Him more intimately.

Purpose of Hebrew / that we would see Jesus

As we study Hebrews together, we must keep in mind that our purpose is not to get lost in curious doctrinal details. Nor is our purpose to attack or defend some pet doctrine. Our purpose is to hear God speak in Jesus Christ, and to heed that Word. We want to echo the prayer of the Greeks: "Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21). If our purpose is to know Christ better and exalt Him more, than whatever differences we may have in our understanding of the book will be forgotten in our worship of Him.

(John 12:21 NKJV) Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Romans 11:33 (NKJV) ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary lists 550,000 words. And it is a solemn and beautiful thought that in our worship of God there sometimes rush up from the depths of our souls feelings that all this wealth of words is not sufficient to express. To be articulate at certain times we are compelled to fall back upon "Oh!" or "O!"—a primitive exclamatory sound that is hardly a word at all and that scarcely admits of a definition.

Vocabularies are formed by many minds over long periods and are capable of expressing whatever the mind is capable of entertaining. But when the heart, on its knees, moves into the awesome Presence and hears with fear and wonder things not lawful to utter, then the mind falls flat, and words, previously its faithful servants, become weak and totally incapable of telling what the heart hears and sees. In that awful moment the worshiper can only cry "Oh!" And that simple exclamation becomes more eloquent than learned speech and, I have no doubt, is dearer to God than any oratory. (Tozer)

7 Characteristics of Jesus Christ:

- He is Heir of all things: v2
- He is the Creator of all things: v2
- He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3
- He is the Expressed Image of God: v3
- He Holds all things together with His word: v3
- He is the Purifier of our sins: v3
- He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Passage: Hebrews 1:4-14

Title: Christ is Superior to the Angels

Summary: Why does this study matter? For most would agree, of course Jesus is superior to the angels. But there is more here than just the direct statement that Jesus is superior to the angels. It also is that Jesus is superior to any intercessor. We have religions around the world today that man feels that they cannot come into the presence of the Lord because they're unworthy, and so they come via another man. They come via a woman named Mary. They come via angels, such as praying to Gabriel. In all of these things and even strong believers can find themselves being brought back into a false humility by saying, "I'm not worthy to come into the presence of the Lord, therefore, I will come in through a mediator," and the deception and the diminishing of it is Jesus Christ is superior to all intercessors. He is the intercessor and mediator, and therefore, to come any other way can only come in a way that is diminishing and sometimes even destroying. That's why a study today of Jesus' superior to the angels is so vital for each and every one of us and the people that we will love and witness to around us.

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1:4-14 (NKJV) ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they, ⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? ⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." ⁷ And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." ⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." ¹⁰ And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

about the superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Better

The word *better* is used thirteen times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation over the Hebrew system of religion. Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4). He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19) because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Perfect

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen times. It means a perfect standing before God. This perfection could never be accomplished by the levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11) or by the Law (Heb. 7: 19), nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1). Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Eternal

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - . Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12) and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8) and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21). "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

And let me say this, and may we understand this, and claim this..... God is eternal, He is the Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6)..... and you can read that and claim this equally so..... He is the "Outlasting" Father, and He will outlast anything that comes against you in this fallen world, He will outlast your enemies, He will outlast the world, He will outlast even your flesh! He is the Everlasting, Outlasting Father, who lives to make intercession for you (Hebrews 7:25).....TODAY

Combine all 3

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations – cross – right hand

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say. And, equally powerful, we have a speaking God who speaks to His people. He is not a distant far away God, but a here and near and hearing and speaking God. What is your need to today, speak to Him, listen for Him, and He will speak to you today.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

- Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God
- Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man
- Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses
- Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete
- Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest
- Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance
- Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek
- Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete
- Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full
- Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient
- Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith
- Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith
- Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Last Study:

Hebrews 1:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

7 Characteristics of Jesus Christ:

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Oh What a God / 4400hrs

Just recently I had to take some measures to deal with my allergies (which are somewhat a new issue in my life). So I spend considerable amount of time in my office, that I bought an air purifier that is touted to clean and purify the air of dust and allergens (to which we will find out). But of course, the key to the purifier is the filter, which is probably more costly than the actual unit (kind of like ink cartridges are these days – here buy an ink cartridge and get a free printer). Now I run my purifier 24/7, and it has a countdown timer on it so to give how much time is left on the filter and thus when to replace. It started at 4400 hours, which is 6 months. Now every now and then when I see the hours left, I could be reminded of the time that has past, and (Psalm 90:12, and Psalm 39:4), to number my days, and of course to redeem the time (Ephesians 5). Yes that is good stuff, and needs to be applied appropriately, but truly not meant to be living a countdown life, but we are meant to live a victorious faith life today! When I look at that countdown timer, I am reminded, as it went from 4000hrs to 3000hrs, that I have experienced 1,000hrs of a faithful, superior God, that has sustained me, has fought for me, has walked with me, has had intimacy and love with me, just to name a few. “OH”, what an amazing God (Romans 11:33), His riches are past finding out, the depth and love THE CREATOR of the universe has for me; and I said, Sir (now talking to God Almighty), I wish to see Jesus (the expressed image of God), and He has done just that for me these past 1,000hrs, and will so the next 3,000hrs, and beyond!

Psalm 90:12 (NKJV) ¹² *So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

Psalm 39:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *“LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am.*

Ephesians 5:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,* ¹⁶ *redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

(John 12:21 NKJV) *Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."*

Romans 11:33 (NKJV) ³³ *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

This Study

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Jesus is God and is Superior to the Angels:

- Jesus Superior to the Angels (1:4-5)
- Jesus the Begotten One (1:5-6)
- Jesus the Righteous One (1:7-9)
- Jesus the Mighty One (1:10-14)

Why it Matters

Why does this study matter? For most would agree, of course Jesus is superior to the angels. But there is more here than just the direct statement that Jesus is superior to the angels. It also is that Jesus is superior to any intercessor. We have religions around the world today that man feels that they cannot come into the presence of the Lord because they're unworthy, and so they come via another man. They come via a woman named Mary. They come via angels, such as praying to Gabriel. In all of these things and even strong believers can find themselves being brought back into a false humility by saying, "I'm not worthy to come into the presence of the Lord, therefore, I will come in through a mediator," and the deception and the diminishing of it is Jesus Christ is

superior to all intercessors. He is the intercessor and mediator, and therefore, to come any other way can only come in a way that is diminishing and sometimes even destroying. That's why a study today of Jesus' superior to the angels is so vital for each and every one of us and the people that we will love and witness to around us.

I pray that we see and glean and grasp what's being offered and put before us today. The O' mighty God, who lives to make intercession for us and calls us to boldly come before His throne of grace, that we may find help in time of need. It is an invitation to come into the majesty on high and to sup and to fellowship with Him. Jesus would say, "Any man who knocks, I will answer and come in and sup with." The Lord is offering you intimacy today. Not an indirect, but direct path to Him.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.
Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Jesus Superior to the Angels

(Hebrews 1:4 NKJV) having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

(Hebrews 1:5 NKJV) For to which of the angels did He ever say:

"You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?

And again:

"I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?

(Hebrews 1:6 NKJV) But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

"Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Statement is huge to a Jew

This statement is huge to a Jew for they considered angelic involvement in their nation to be a sign of God's approval upon their nation.

they help mediate the giving of the Law

When Moses received the law on Mt Sinai there were 10,000 angels present, they help mediate the giving of the Law to the nation of Israel.

Deuteronomy 33:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ *Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. ² And he said: "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.*

Stephen referenced these angels in his sermon in Acts 7:

Acts 7:37-38 (NKJV) ³⁷ *"This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'* ³⁸ *"This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,*

Paul references this also in Galatians 3:

(Galatians 3:19 NKJV) *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*

108 OT / 165 NT / But None called Son

There are 108 OT references to angels, and 165 NT references to angels. We see them throughout the Scriptures, we see their power and usage by God, but we never see God calling them His Son, nor come sit at my right-hand.

In the Garden

Angels in the garden guarded the tree of life from man.

Genesis 3:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ *So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Over the mercy seat

There were two angels over the "mercy seat" that sat upon the "Art of the Covenant".

Exodus 25:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.*

185K

One angel killed 185,000 by himself.

2 Kings 19:34–35 (NKJV) ³⁴ *'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'* ³⁵ *And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.*

The mighty power of angels, just this one angel.... Yet they were created by God! Thus, how mighty is God, considering the power He has to create such power. How many is our prayer life, if we have the access to call upon the Lord, who has the power, to create and unless such power? Christian, lets call upon God to do great and mighty things in our lives, the world, and the lost.

John 14:12 (NKJV) ¹² *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Stands in front of Son

One angel stands in front of the sun and blocks it out:

Revelation 19:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,*

Jesus is superior / Groups try to make JC equal with Angels

As powerful as angels are, Jesus is superior. Why is this important to you today, because there are groups out there who try to make Jesus equal with the angels. And, many people try to make an angel equal with God.

Satan fallen / not equal with God

Satan is an angel, a fallen angel. But somehow, so many people think that Satan and God are equals. The creation can never be greater than the creator. Satan is a mighty angel, he is equal with Michael the Arch angel, but he is nowhere near God, for Jesus is superior to the angels, the Book of Hebrews tells us that.

Ezekiel 28:13–15 (NKJV) ¹³ *You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*

Jehovah Witnesses / Diminish the Cross

The Jehovah Witnesses teach that Jesus is not God, and before he lived on the earth, he was Michael the Arch Angel, therefore Jesus is created by God, and therefore He cannot be God. It is heresy, why, because it takes away from the deity of Jesus Christ. If you take away from the

deity of Jesus Christ, then diminish the power of the Cross, for if it wasn't God on the cross, then what is the big deal, God can always just create another angel to be a lamb led to a slaughter, but when it is God, ahh then it is a whole different story. For it is God leaving the throne, coming to His creation, being rejected by His own creation, spit upon, mocked and scourged, then placed upon that brutal Roman cross, for those 6 hours that one Friday. An angel, God can speak another one into existence, but His only begotten son,.....it is truly no greater love has he than this, to lay down one's life for a friend.

Mormons / JC & Satan brothers

The Mormons make Jesus equal with Satan, they say Jesus and Lucifer are brothers, that God the Father created both of them. It is somewhat hard to follow from a logic standpoint, but they say Jesus is God, but there is no Trinity, they are all 3 separate beings. However they say Satan is an angel, and Jesus is his brother. So it is tough logic to follow that if Satan is an angel, how Jesus isn't an angel, and Jesus is God, how Satan isn't a God too if they are brothers.

The Mormon doctrine says regarding salvation: God said man has gone astray, we need a plan to redeem man, both of you make a plan and present it to me, and I will pick one. The Father picked Jesus plan, Satan got upset and rebelled and was cast out of heaven, and now he is in constant battle with God. But if that isn't twisted enough for you, how did Jesus come to earth and be born of Mary? God the Father left heaven, knocked on her door, and they had sexual relations together, and Jesus was born. Not only twisted, sick, yet millions follow, and one may be knocking on your door today.

Show them Hebrews / JC is Superior

Should they come knowing, bring them to Hebrews, and show them that Jesus is superior to the angels, and that God calls Him God as we will see throughout chapter one.

Sadly, they have been conditioned, deceived on how to address this contradiction in the Scriptures. But, what they cannot deny, is the Book of Hebrews. Jesus is superior to all things,

Better / perfect / eternal / combine them for REST

As we studied last week, there are three words we see repeated throughout this book, "better" (13), "perfect" (14), and "eternal" (9). When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal, and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal, nor can Joseph Smith or the Watchtower followers.

Works complete / right hand / resting in His love

The works are complete, He is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercessor, there is no need for anything to be added, He is resting in His finished works, and man needs to rest in that the same

Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Jesus the Begotten One

(Hebrews 1:5 NKJV) For to which of the angels did He ever say:

"You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?

And again:

"I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?

(Hebrews 1:6 NKJV) But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

"Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Confusion of Begotten / Cultist / Created

This word "begotten" has caused much confusion for the Believer and has left many unbelievers an easy prey to Satan, to twist the Scripture and lead them in a way of destruction. The Cultist

are such people. They use this word, and this passage to say that Jesus is not God because He was created, but as Satan always does, he twists the Scriptures as we studied back in Genesis in the garden, and he takes the Scriptures out of context.

Definition of Begotten

Begotten: monogenes, mon-og-en-ace'; only-born, i.e. sole:--only (begotten, child).

This word was used to mean "unique", "the only one of its kind", "the only example of its category." In its simplicity, it means "one and only". There is no other.

Begotten – the First to Resurrect best commentary / resurrection

The best commentary for the Bible is the Bible. Let the Bible interpret the Bible. God will never contradict Himself, therefore, the Bible, His Word will never contradict itself. This passage here in verse 5 is a quote from Psalm 2:7, and Paul the Apostle interprets it for us in Acts 13.

Paul explains it to us in Acts to mean that God is talking about the resurrection, Jesus is the first, the leader of the resurrection. This isn't talking birthing in this verse, but delivery.

Begotten - gennao, ghen-nah'-o; to procreate (prop. of the father, but by extens. of the mother); fig. to regenerate:--bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of, gender, make, spring.

Acts 13:30–35 (NKJV) ³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead. ³¹ He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. ³² And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. ³³ God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' ³⁴ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' ³⁵ Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

left the throne, became man / Acceptable Sacrifice

Jesus left the throne, became man, while still being God, to take on the sins of the world. He died, was buried, and rose again on the third day, then after 40 days he was raised back up into heaven and assumed His place on the Throne again. This is crucial for our understanding, the fact that Jesus rose again, proves that His substitution sacrifice was acceptable to God. If it was not, He would have been left in the grave, and would have been just another sacrifice like any other. But He was accepted, and He rose again.

Progression from verse 4

Hebrews verse 5 is the progression from verse 4, in the context that Jesus purged our sins and is seated at the right-hand of the Father.

We as children will be received / works complete

And since He rose again, it is proof that all who believe will follow Him into the resurrection. The Father received His only begotten Son up into heaven, and God the Father will receive all of us, His children, up into heaven. We can rest in that, the works are complete.

John 1:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Begotten – One and Only – From Eternity

The Cultist will argue that Jesus is created, but the Scriptures never contradict themselves, and they say that Jesus is eternal, and He created all things therefore He cannot be created. Here gang is a major point in dealing with Cultist, the unbeliever, or the backslider: Never let them build their case or theology from one Scripture alone. Basing a case on one Scripture gives them the advantage, their case is believable based on one verse, but when you put that verse in context of the thousands of verses, they lose their case. Scripture will never contradict itself, because God is the Word, and God would never contradict Himself. Begotten can be a confusing word, until

you put it in context with the other Scriptures - Jesus is eternal, and He created all things therefore He cannot be created.

John 1:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

There are 31,102 verses in the Bible, and all of them make one message! There are not 31,102 messages in the Bible.

Jesus Christ is the Eternal Father, yet he is the Son:

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The trinity is so One, that when you look at one, you see all three.

(Deuteronomy 6:4 NKJV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

John 10:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

(John 14:9 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

cannot comprehend

Man's finite brain cannot comprehend nor explain the infinite God. Constantine said trying to explain the Trinity is like trying to pour the whole Ocean into a bucket. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are One God in three persons.

John 3:16

Now, what does that mean in John 3:16?

(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Definition of Begotten

Begotten: monogenes, mon-og-en-ace'; only-born, i.e. sole:--only (begotten, child).

This word was used to mean "unique", "the only one of its kind", "the only example of its category." In its simplicity, it means "one and only". There is no other.

Special relationship with Father / The Only Lamb / The Only to Leave Heaven

So Jesus is one of a kind, He is the only one who has this relationship with the Father and Holy Spirit, and.....He is the only "Lamb of God" (John 1:29). There was no other, nor there could ever be another who could become the Lamb of God.

Refer back to our first study, Jesus took the sins of the world by Himself, as in all alone.

No one worthy to take the scroll, but the Lamb, and the Lamb only:

Revelation 5:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Only-begotten does not suggest a coming into existence eternally (we've already covered that), but a coming into existence into this world, God leaving the throne, becoming man, coming from outside our time domain – into our time, and living amongst us; all to take my sin and your sin,

that we might become children of God. Jesus, the Son, was the only who could do that , and did that.

(V.5) And again:

"I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?

Your throne right where you left it

Quote from 2 Samuel 7:14. Nathan the prophet speaking to King David a Messianic prophecy.
2 Samuel 7:12–16 (NKJV) ¹² "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "

For us, the application is God the Father is saying welcome home my Son, well done, your Father is pleased. Your position, your throne, are right where you left them when you left them to go redeem mankind from their sin.

(Hebrews 1:6 NKJV) But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

"Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Quoting Psalm 97:7 out of the Greek Septuagint.

The angels worshipped Jesus at his birth:

Luke 2:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Jesus the Righteous One

(Hebrews 1:7 NKJV) And of the angels He says:

"Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."

(Hebrews 1:8 NKJV) But to the Son He says:

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

Verse 7 quoted from Psalm 104:4

Verse 8 is quoted from Psalm 45:6-7

Here again God the Father calls Jesus God, it is truly that simple.

God a just & fair judge

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. - Jesus rules righteously. Scepter represents authority in the Scriptures. God will be just and fair to all who have never heard the gospel. That pigmy will be judged righteously.

Revelation 15:3 (NKJV) ³ *They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"*

Those people who throw that one up, well what about the person who never heard the gospel, do you mean they will go to hell, how about the person in New Guinea. Hey, if you are that concerned about them hearing the gospel, then get saved and go over there and tell them about Jesus. The true issue at hand is, Jesus will judge righteously, and the question for you, are you right with Him?

**(v.8) "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.**

Forever and ever. He doesn't change (Malachi 3:6 & Heb 13:8),. The unbeliever hates this about God, because sin will always be sin, and He won't change His mind about it. The world may say He is out of date, but God says I do not change.

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

His never changing is good for us, for He will never change His mind about us, and the forgiveness of our sin. In Christ we are forgiven, so when I die, I will be heaven bound. I won't get there, and God say, well I changed my mind, you didn't work out the way I had hoped.

(Hebrews 1:9 NKJV)

You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

Quoted from Isaiah 61:1-3

God here talking to the Son, again calls Him God, it is that simple, Jesus is God.

Jesus Passionate

Here's a verse that gives us a glimpse into the personality of Jesus while He was on Earth... Jesus was a passionate, fiery person. He loved and hated... He loved what was right and hated rebellion.

Gladness is directly proportionally to holiness

Notice the "therefore" in the verse, it links the relationship between righteousness and gladness. Jesus loves righteousness and hates evil, and righteousness brings Him gladness, Gladness is directly proportionally to holiness. Happiness and holiness go hand-n-hand..The world doesn't get this, many believer don't either, the extent you are holy, is the extent that you will be happy. Sin robs you of joy, it brings depression into your life.

The extent you chose to be holy is the extent you will be happy; and the extent you chose to compromise holiness, is the extent you will be unhappy. You can have all of God you want, but not one drop more.

Jesus the Mighty One

(Hebrews 1:10 NKJV) And:

"You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

(Hebrews 1:11 NKJV)

They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment;

(Hebrews 1:12 NKJV)

Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

Verse 10 Quoted from Psalm 102:25-27

Verse 11-12 Quoted from Isaiah 34:4

Everlasting / Outlasting

The Son, Jesus Christ, will outlast the Universe. He laid the foundations of the universe, and He will let them go someday. The earth is fading, the universe is moving from order to disorder.

And let me say this, and may we understand this, and claim this..... God is eternal, He is the Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6)..... and you can read that and claim this equally so..... He is

the “Outlasting” Father, and He will outlast anything that comes against you in this fallen world, He will outlast your enemies, He will outlast the world, He will outlast even your flesh! He is the Everlasting, Outlasting Father, who lives to make intercession for you (Hebrews 7:25)....TODAY *Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)* ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Priority / Hard times – Hang-on

What does this mean to you, remember to keep things in perspective and priority, for someday it is all going to burn. These readers were being persecuted, they were going through hard times, but the writer is saying, it is all fading away, Jesus will always remain, so no matter what you may have lost or will lose, you still will have all that matters, and all that will last forever.

**(Hebrews 1:13 NKJV) But to which of the angels has He ever said:
"Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?**

Quoted from Psalm 110:1

a victorious General

It is a picture of a victorious General, with his foot on the neck of his defeated foe. Maybe you seem like you are losing the battle in this life, but Christ is superior, he has His foot on the neck of your enemy, the Devil, and He and you will be victorious.

Colossians 2:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

(Hebrews 1:14 NKJV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

We will judge them, but they will protect us.

(1 Corinthians 6:3 NKJV) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

(Psalms 91:11 NKJV) For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

After Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, the angels came and ministered to Him.

Matthew 4:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

American WW2 pilots recant stories of being greatly outnumbered by the Germans in dogfights, and they would see inside the cockpits and see dead pilots, but some great light in the cockpit, and the plane would still be in the battle shooting down German planes.

Story of the King of Syria coming to kill Elisha for being a prophet and foiling all his attack plans by telling of them before he would do them:

2 Kings 6:12–17 (NKJV) ¹² And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” ¹³ So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.” And it was told him, saying, “Surely he is in Dothan.” ¹⁴ Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

A missionary in South America tells the story of how the word had got to him that the tribal Witch Doctor was coming with a group of men to kill him and his wife. So the couple said all we can do is pray, so they spent the night in prayer, and the attack never came. It was some years later. The Witch Doctor gave his life to the Lord, and the missionary asked why didn't you kill us that night. The Witch Doctor said we came, but when we saw all those huge men with swords outside your house, we said forget it.

I may have met my guardian angel in California while I was in Bible College. I was doing street ministry and met this homeless man out in front of In&Out Burger. I offered him some food but he declined, I asked him where he lived and he pointed to the curb along the roadside, by a grate that would allow steam to rise from the hot water pipes running through the city. Amazingly I asked to pray for him, and he allowed me, and then he said let me pray for you. When he prayed, he had prayed exactly for what I was asking the Lord to show me that day in my devotion, in reference to what the Lord had for me, and wanted me to do for Him. Was it my guardian angel, maybe, maybe.

As powerful as these angels are, Jesus is superior, for His is God, the only begotten, He is sitting at the right-hand of the Father. He is superior, He is better, He is perfect, and He is eternal.

God of Angel Armies by My Side / Jesus Better than Angels

The angel who ministers to you doesn't love you. He's just following orders. It's "The God of Angel of Armies that's always by my side." God might send an angel to show His compassion, but it's Jesus who cares! Always remember, Jesus is better than angels!

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Jesus is God and is Superior to the Angels:

- Jesus Superior to the Angels (1:4-5)
- Jesus the Begotten One (1:5-6)
- Jesus the Righteous One (1:7-9)
- Jesus the Mighty One (1:10-14)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews Chapter 2

Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

Passage: Hebrews 2:1-4

Title: Warning! Don't Drift Away

Summary: In the Book of Hebrews are 6 Warnings given to “believers”. The first warning, in our passage today, is to not “drift away”. The person who says I can skip this warning, this Bible study, because I would never drift away, I am too anchored, too solid in my faith; is the person who needs this study the most, and of course every one of us need to hear this warning – why? Because drifting happens ever so slowly and unnoticed, else we would have seen it coming and made a course correction well in advance before shipwreck happened. No one is immune to drifting, hence why the Lord in His love gives us a warning, maybe for some today, a look out shout.

Hebrews 2:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Drifting in PA

I remember the wonderful summers growing up in Western Pennsylvania; whether it was family, or friends, we would park and leave a car (or 2 or 3 depending how many of us there were), and then all pile (literally) into the other car (or 2 or 3). Our backyard was “the 3 Rivers” (the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio River), and to boot for where I lived we also had the Youghiogheny River which fed the Monongahela River. The Ohio River by the way flows into the Mississippi River, which ends in the Gulf of Mexico.

So, the parked cars were at a bend in the river that had a dirt turnout for ample parking, and then we would drive the other (piled in) cars several miles up the river to a like spot and park. Then we would get the pumps out, blow up car inner tubes, wade out into the river and just drift..... for hours. Just talking, midway point paddle ashore and build a fire and cook some burgers, and then back into the inner tubes and drifting some more. I drifted with my parents, then when old enough I drifted with friends. I drifted as a follower (just along for the ride), then when older I drifted as a leader. Though we never had an “official” leader, there was always a leader, even when just relaxing and drifting. You see the experienced rafters (drifters) knew this about the rivers of western Pennsylvania, they all ended up at “the locks” which are little manmade canals to help boats navigate the river, as they adjust the river for rising and lower terrain. The locks are on the far edge of the river, but in the middle running all the way across are literal waterfalls. Maybe only 12-15 feet in height, surely nothing that is extremely dangerous from a falling standpoint, but see the ultimate danger is that the continuing water flowing and falling produced a “washing machine” cycle, and it could take you under and up, under and up, and the fact is it could and was deadly. Even people wearing a life vest, but as a youth and young adult, we never wore life vests when we drifted.

Why didn't we wear life vests? Because we know where the locks were (the leader always did), and we knew when to get out of the water. Well here in our passage, Jesus the Captain of our salvation, gives us the first of 6 warnings found in this epistle, and it is the warning of “drifting away”. Because, God is love (1 John 4:8), and love calls out – Look Out!

Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

6 Warnings given in the Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2

- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

about the superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Better

The word *better* is used thirteen times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation over the Hebrew system of religion. Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4). He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19) because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Perfect

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen times. It means a perfect standing before God. This perfection could never be accomplished by the levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11) or by the Law (Heb. 7: 19), nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1). Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Eternal

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - . Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12) and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8) and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21). "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Combine all 3

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations – cross – right hand

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest

Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Chapter 2, we will look at:

Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

- **Warning #1 – Drifting Away (2:1-4)**
- Jesus the Ruler (2:5-8)
- Jesus the Jesus the Cupbearer (2:9)
- Jesus the Captain of Our Salvation (2:10)
- Jesus the Worshipper (2:11-12)
- Jesus the One made like the Brethren (2:13-18)

Jesus being God, became man so that we might relate to Him, and see our worthy leader, and a leader who when warning is giving, we must hear and heed.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Today's Passage

Hebrews 2:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Warning 1 – Drifting Away (2:1-4)

(Hebrews 2:1 NKJV) Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Give “earnest heed” – means give this extensive attention!

6 Warnings given in the Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

Progression

Look at the progression. If we do not listen to God's Word and really hear it, we will start to **drift**. Neglect always leads to drifting, in things material and physical as well as spiritual. As we drift from the Word, we start to **doubt** the Word; because faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). We start to get hard hearts, and this leads to spiritual sluggishness, which produces **dullness** toward the Word. We become "dull of hearing", Lazy listeners! We then **depart** altogether, they have no thought of the Word and its meaning in their life. This leads to a **despiteful** attitude toward the Word to the extent that we willfully disobey God; and this gradually develops into a defiant, **denying** attitude—we almost "dare" God to do anything!

Notice the “therefore”, it refers us back to everything we covered in Chapter 1:

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

7 Characteristics of Jesus Christ, and His superiority in and over all things:

1. He is Heir of all things: v2
2. He is the Creator of all things: v2
3. He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3
4. He is the Expressed Image of God: v3
5. He Holds all things together with His word: v3
6. He is the Purifier of our sins: v3
7. He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3

Jesus is God and is Superior to the Angels:

- Jesus Superior to the Angels (1:4-5)
- Jesus the Begotten One (1:5-6)
- Jesus the Righteous One (1:7-9)
- Jesus the Mighty One (1:10-14)

Please take a moment and go back to last two studies and do a quick refresh of all that we studied – we studied God (amen – the Person of God), and all He did and thinks of us.

Chapter 1, is who our Jesus is, our Savior! Forget these things, neglect these things, and it will be easy to drift from Him, because we have taken our eyes and heart off of Him.

I struggled somewhat with this study this week, and late yesterday especially. I revised the whole study yesterday, and still this morning, why? Because although we will study this passage, verse-by-verse, because that is what we do as Bible students, and Bible teaching church; but I struggled because I was focusing more on “teaching” (context, original language meaning, cross-referencing, aka – Inductive Bible Study Method), and was very much missing the very heart of the passage..... It's a warning! We all need to be warned, because in this fast-paced, full of distractions and to-do lists, it is very easy to drift, because we neglect the Lord. Let's be honest,

all who are married, how easy is it to neglect our spouse and children, because..... they are always there. We must remind, we must purpose, that they be priority, and not let all the other things be to-do, then we will come and-be, with them. Be with them, and then trust God for the to-do. Be with the Lord, and then trust Him with the to-do.

(Hebrews 2:2 NKJV) For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

Word Spoken Through Angels

The word spoken through angels: This is a way to describe the Mosaic Law, which was received ... by the direction of angels (Acts 7:53). The idea is that the law was “delivered” to Moses by the hands of angels.

*Acts 7:53 (NKJV)*⁵³ *who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”*

The idea that angels had a role in bringing the Law to Moses is found in Deuteronomy 33:2, Acts 7:53, and in Galatians 3:19. Josephus also repeated this idea in his ancient history (Antiquities, 15.53).

*Deuteronomy 33:2 (NKJV)*² *And he said: “The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.*

*Galatians 3:19 (NKJV)*¹⁹ *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*

(Hebrews 2:2 NKJV) For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

Proved Steadfast

Proved steadfast: The Mosaic Law was steadfast and strict (every transgression and disobedience received a just reward). It demanded to be taken seriously.

(Hebrews 2:3 NKJV) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

How Escape

How shall we escape: If we must take the word which came by angels seriously, then we must take the word that came by the Son of God even more seriously. The Son is proven to be greater than the angels, so His message should be regarded as greater.

A greater word brought by a greater Person having greater promises will bring a greater condemnation if it is neglected.

(Hebrews 2:3 NKJV) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Neglect

If we neglect so great a salvation: The word ancient Greek word translated neglect is *amelesantes*, also used in Matthew 22:5 (they made light of it). This refers to those who disregarded the invitation to the marriage supper. It means to have the opportunity but to ignore or disregard the opportunity.

*Matthew 22:1–5 (NKJV)*¹ *And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ² “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³ and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴ Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.*

This is a word to believers, not to the unsaved. *The danger described isn't rejecting salvation (though the principle certainly applies there also), but the danger is neglecting salvation.*

Remember that Hebrews was written not primarily as an evangelistic tract, but as an encouragement and warning to discouraged Christians. It was written to those who neglected an abiding walk with Jesus.

Great Salvation

So great a salvation: When we consider something great, we will naturally pay attention to it and not neglect it. If we do not consider something great, we leave it to convenience rather than to commitment.

Therefore, if we neglect something, we probably do not consider it great. Yet our salvation is great, because:

- We are saved by a great Savior.
- We are saved at a great cost.
- We are saved from a great penalty.

A reason many neglect their salvation is because they never see it as salvation. They see it merely as receiving something, not as being rescued from something.

Guzik, D. (2013). Hebrews (Heb 2:2–4). David Guzik.

How great a salvation! Today we will go back to the communion table, because that is the place that is purposed to remind us how great a salvation. We don't take communion on a schedule here at CCAAC for the very reason, we don't want to make it routine, but a special remembrance of how great a salvation, just as the Lord said.... Do this in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Only a Rod?

Isaiah 11:1 (NKJV) ¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Only a "rod" from a human "stem"? Only a "root" from "dry ground"? Has he no "form nor comeliness," no beauty that we should desire? "Surely He bore our griefs" and the way of "our peace" was in Him. "Because He stooped so low God has exalted Him very high," and the beauty of this tender plant was the glory of God on high.

Isaiah 53:2–6 (NKJV) ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

I am always and forever will be amazed at how low the God, the King of the Universe, stooped down in order to redeem me.

Called Me by Name

Isaiah 43:1 (NKJV) ¹ But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

He called me by name. Not only that He knows my name, but that He called me by name. And to say..... you are "MINE". He created me, He formed me, He redeemed me, and is so intimate with me he knows my name. The Name above all names, knows my name! And..... so amazing, I/we get to call Him by Name, we know Him personally and come boldly before Him in an intimate love

relationship. That is a great salvation, one that needs reminded, and protected.... And occasionally..... warned.

(Hebrews 2:3 NKJV) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

This word was given to the apostles, who then passed it down, as to this writer himself, who then passed it down, all the way unto us here today.

(Hebrews 2:4 NKJV) God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

The message of salvation is from Jesus Himself. God confirmed the message of salvation by the ministry of the apostles, As signs and wonders confirms the word that was preached

Important to Note

It is important to note that in the Scriptures we always saw signs and wonders follow the preaching. Mark 16:20 God gives us the principle clearly:

(Mark 16:20 NKJV) And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

It is "so great salvation", that is spoken by Jesus, as it is fulfilled by Jesus.

Logos / Paraklesis

This writer in this epistle writes in Hebrews 13:22

(Hebrews 13:22 KJV) And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word (logos) of exhortation (paraklesis): for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

You are probably familiar with the words used in that verse:

- logos, log'-os: - the Word! Used in John 1:1, in the beginning was the Word
- paraklesis, par-ak'-lay-sis – meaning to come along side to help along.

He writes these warnings, knowing that the Spirit of God will come along side (His Word) and help along all who will heed these warnings.

Out of a heart of love will come many warnings

This writer writes these warnings out of a heart of love. Out of a heart of love will come many warnings. Out of love a person will tell someone what they need to hear, not what they want to hear. Let this be an example for all of us, tell people what they need to hear, not what they want to hear.

This Group / Soon Shaken

This group of people written to, many had lost their jobs, their homes, their business, some have been killed or persecuted (Hebrews 10). They could hear the trumpets blowing at the temple, they could see their friends heading to the temple to offer sacrifices, they could see how easy their lives were, and they would ask themselves, what is the use of fighting against it, why not go back to the old way, everything was easier, no hardships and sufferings. They would say to themselves, after all I'm saved, I can blend back in, it isn't a big deal, I've accepted Jesus. Others may have been saying, my life has been nothing but pain since I gave my life to Jesus, where is He during the hard times, where is this life, and that more abundant that he promised, I don't see the advantage of being a Christian. What they didn't know was, that soon, those very same people who they thought had it better, that their lives were going to be shaken, for in just a few years, Nero would come in and not only destroy the temple, he would slaughter thousands of Jews. They say that they blood flowed through the streets of Jerusalem like a river. For those people who ignored the "Final Sacrifice", they would have no foundation to fall back on, and for many, they would have missed out on the opportunity of eternal life in the presence of the King.

Neglecting / rejecting

This admonition is written to believers, for the writer includes himself when he writes "we." The danger here is that of neglecting our salvation. Note, the author did not say rejecting, but neglecting.

Drifting / inattention / anchored in Christ

The word "drift" gives us the thought of a boat in the water floating down the river. So too is the illustration of a Christian drifting away from God. In most cases, Christians just don't go from hot to cold, "such dangerous drifting is not intentional, but comes rather from inattention and carelessness. Which was precisely the problem with the church this Epistle written to. They had become careless about their moorings in Christ. At first, in calm waters, that was not noticeable. But as the storms of opposition rose some of them were drifting farther and farther away from Christ toward the shoals of shipwreck in their old world of Judaism.

Hebrews 6:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ This *hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,* ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

It's important to have an anchor connected to the boat if you're on the Youghiogheny River—or the Wellington River. Perhaps you have never heard of the Wellington, but I guarantee you've heard of the river into which it flows: the Niagara. Posted at the point where the Wellington empties into the Niagara, is this sign: DO YOU HAVE AN ANCHOR? DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT?

Same today / no dramatic departure / Church Ephesus

That church's experience 2,000 years ago intersects our lives in this way: drifting is the besetting sin of our day. And as the metaphor suggest, it is not so much intentional as it is from unconcern. Christians neglect their anchor -- Christ -- and begin to quietly drift away. There is no friction, no dramatic sense of departure. But when the winds of trouble come, the things of Christ are left far behind, even out of sight. The writer of Revelation uses different language, but refers to the same thing when he says to the ostensibly healthy Ephesian church, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love"(Revelation 2:4)."

Revelation 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

causes for drifting

As we examine the other warnings in the Book of Hebrews we will see some of the causes for drifting, but the following are a few I want to touch on now.

- Ceasing to give the attention and earnestness to the things of God like the; Study of the Word, prayer time, and the willingness to be absent from the assemblies of the saints of God (Heb. 10:25).
- Lost consciousness of God, and the price He paid on the Cross.
- Occupation with the affairs and news of this world, rather than of the world to come, and our coming Lord.
- Putting away of the thought of a "judgment to come.
- Absorption in earthly, selfish interests: justifying their sin.

Side Note: Things to consider when choosing a Church;

- Are you being taught the Word, and given application to daily living?
- Are you being disciplined by someone to take you deeper in Christ?
- Are you being held accountable by someone?
- Are there opportunities for you to serve?
- Are you fellowshiping with other believers?

Little by little / month by month / Ask God to search our hearts

The danger of this in our lives may only be a little, but year after year, we become far from Jesus. We must purge everything in our life that would cause us to drift away from God, we must ask God to search our hearts, it doesn't matter what everybody else is doing.

15 / 15 / 15

My friend, Pastor Joe gave me what I consider great advice for not drifting away. Never fail, 15 minutes a day read the Bible, 15 minutes a day pray to the Lord, and 15 minutes a day share your faith with somebody. If you do this you will never stumble.

remain steadfast

We are to remain steadfast; we are not to be moved or shaken by the things around, but stay anchored in Christ. Continue in our obedience to all things that he has called us to, no matter what the price.

Hudson Taylor

The great missionary, Hudson Taylor, his life had become an adventure of faith, of learning to trust God in impossible circumstances. The first leg of his journey into the mission field only reinforced the pattern.

Off the Welsh coast, the ship ran into a severe storm that lasted for hours. The captain described the sea as the "wildest he had ever seen." Taylor alternated between dread and trust in God's care. When the captain, a devout Methodist himself, grew convinced that they weren't going to survive a half-hour longer he turned to Taylor and asked, "What of your call to labor for the Lord in China?"

Taylor said that he wouldn't wish to be in any other position and that he still expected to reach China. But if not, "The Master would say it was well that I was found seeking to obey his command."

Christian when the world storms around you, hold fast to your anchor, stay obedient to what He has called you to, stay anchored in Christ and you will never drift.

Conclusion

Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

- **Warning #1 – Drifting Away (2:1-4)**
- Jesus the Ruler (2:5-8)
- Jesus the Jesus the Cupbearer (2:9)
- Jesus the Captain of Our Salvation (2:10)
- Jesus the Worshipper (2:11-12)
- Jesus the One made like the Brethren (2:13-18)

Jesus being God, became man so that we might relate to Him, and see our worthy leader, and a leader who when warning is giving, we must hear and heed.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Passage: Hebrews 2:5-18

Title: Jesus: The Son of Man (Why that Title Matters to You)

Summary: In our passage today, we will look at one of the titles/phrases used of Jesus, “The Son of Man”. Why does this title/phrase matter to you as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ? Because it speaks of God’s Humanity, the God who became man, lived as a man in a fallen world, but lived as a godly man, and shows us and proves to us that we can too. Jesus relates to us, and then relays to us, why He can be our anchor in everything and all things.

Hebrews 2:5–18 (NKJV) ⁵ For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: “What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? ⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” ¹³ And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” ¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

The theme of the epistle/book is that God speaks, and today as every day, God wants to speak to us today, may we have ears to hear.

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

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Son of Man, a title/description/phrase of Jesus, and His humanity. Ultimately, it was this identification that they would put Jesus to death for, because “Son of Man” was the title reserved for God, and Jesus was declaring that He is God:

Daniel 7:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 8:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Matthew 9:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ⁷ And he arose and departed to his house.

Matthew 12:3–8 (NKJV) ³ But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶ Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. ⁷ But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Matthew 12:9–14 (NKJV) ⁹ Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—that they might accuse Him. ¹¹ Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the

Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³ Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. ¹⁴ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Why does this title/phrase matter to you as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ? Because it speaks of God’s Humanity, the God who became man, lived as a man in a fallen world, but lived as a godly man, and shows us and proves to us that we can too. Jesus relates to us, and then relays to us, why He can be our anchor in everything and all things.

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Jesus the Ruler (2:5-8)

Jesus Made Lower – But Greater Glory

As we look at his passage, we see Jesus as the Ruler, that all things are under Him, and that He rules over all things. So context continues that Jesus is superior to the angels, but also Jesus will rule all things (angels and everything else). When Jesus became man, He was still the “Son of Man”, God in the flesh. Jesus had full godhead on the earth in human flesh.

(Hebrews 2:5 NKJV) For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

(Hebrews 2:6 NKJV) But one testified in a certain place, saying:

***“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?”***

(Hebrews 2:7 NKJV)

***You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.***

(Hebrews 2:8 NKJV)

“You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

King David see his insignificance

This is a quote from Psalm 8:4-6. Read psalm 8 in the full context and we see David sees the canopy of stars in the heavens, and his mind is blown, he sees his insignificance.

Psalm 8:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! ² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. ³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Our Galaxy

Our Universe is made up of countless Galaxies, within each galaxy are many solar systems (with each solar system consisting of a burning star and its family of sub planets). Our Galaxy is called the Milky Way. It is estimated that there are about 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone. And, are you ready for this, within telescope range there are about 100 million other such galaxies like ours, and who knows how many beyond that.

The earth is 93 million miles from the sun, and Pluto which is the last planet in our solar system, on the average stays 3.6 billion miles from the sun, that means this solar system is 7 billion miles in diameter. Consider this is just one solar system that comprises our whole Galaxy. Just take my conservation calculation, if there are 100 million galaxies, each 7 billion miles in diameter, then the universe is 700,000,000,000,000,000, miles in diameter.

David saw vastness / Jesus so Mindful / enemies His footstool

When David looks at the vastness of the universe, he said what is man that you are mindful of him. But Jesus is so mindful of man, that He would lower Himself, take on the form of man, make Himself lower than the angels, leave the throne, so that He could redeem man, and put sin and death under His feet, and make His enemies His footstool.

Man given dominion / forfeited it Satan / Jesus bought it / Dispensation of Grace

Man was given dominion over the world (Gen 1:26-31), but forfeited it back to Satan in the garden, man turned it over to Satan. This is why there is war, assaults, drug addiction, and the likes, because Satan is still prince of this world. Jesus bought it back, when He came in humanity, as the Son of Man, but Jesus hasn't called His purchase yet. The moment Jesus calls His purchase, He must then judge all things, the dispensation of grace will be over, and God's judgement on a Christ rejecting world will begin.

Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Revelation 5:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV) ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

squatting rights / Man still turns it over

Satan is in charge presently, exercising squatting rights, if you will, as long as man allows him. Today you see, man still turns it over to Satan, we watch his stuff on television, listen to his junk, snort his stuff, drink his stuff, and we wonder why the world is what it is. Why does Jesus allow war and suffering? Because of Grace. What you say, how is that grace? Because war, and disease, and all immoralities are because of sin entering into the world through Adam at the fall,

and the only way to bring an end to the fall is to bring an end to all sin, and that means all sinners must be removed at the same time, and if any have not received Christ and Lord and Savior, they will be judged into everlasting hell and damnation.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Check the Clock / no time to Drift

But the dispensation of grace will end soon, check the prophetic clock, and Jesus will judge a Christ rejecting world. Therefore, it is vital we all heed the first warning, not to drift.

Jesus Rules – All Things In Subjection of Him

I am reminded of Psalm 84 which says God does not withhold any good thing for His people. It is hard to believe that sometimes, because we can feel that people, situations, circumstances control us, rule us, from the good things God desires for us. Jesus is the ruler, all things are in subjection to Him, and thus at His determining. He chooses what is all things, and what is best things for us, not the world or the devil. We can find ourselves living a life of frustration, bitterness, anger, and even fear because we think something else or someone else is ruling and making final determination other than Jesus.

Psalm 84:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. ¹² O LORD of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

A Challenge to All of Us

And let me add this, challenge you, us all.... to live this week, all week, of letting Jesus rule our hearts. In everything, we say, Lord I put this in subjection of You. I give You the final authority, the final decision, the final and total trust that you will work all things together for me, and withhold no good thing from me, even when I don't see it or understand it. Just one week Christian, and I will promise you.... A week of peace, and a week of power.

Jesus the Jesus the Cupbearer (2:9)

(Hebrews 2:9 NKJV) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Born to Die

He was made like us He might die for us. The only person born to die. He was lower than the angels when He became man.

Tasted Death / Cupbearer

He tasted death for everyone. The cupbearer tasted everything before the King would eat or drink it. If someone was trying to kill the king through poisoning, the cupbearer would die, thus preserving the King. We see this in the Book of Nehemiah, as he was the king's cupbearer.

Nehemiah 1:11-2:2 (NKJV) ¹¹ O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. ¹² For I was the king's cupbearer. ¹ And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. ² Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,

That is what Jesus did, He was our cupbearer, he took our sin, He took our death.

The disciples had no clue of the cupbearer:

(Matthew 20:22 NKJV) But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

In the Garden

In the garden, Jesus said let this cup pass.

(Matthew 26:39 NKJV) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Ultimately drank it

But He ultimately drank it, took our death. That is why he became man, to take our death. That is why the humanity of Christ is so important, so that He could demonstrate that He understands what we go through and have to experience living in this world.

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Taste & See

Psalm 34 says taste and see the Lord is good. Jesus fully embraced and experienced so to deliver us from sin and death, but also as we continue on in the context, to be relatable to us and relay unto us he understands our needs. So too, for us, to fully relate and understand our Lord, we have to fully taste and embrace, if we are to experience Him fully and intimately. I would encourage and challenge us all this week, for 7 days, I am going to put aside the other appetites (the world and the flesh), and Lord I am going to dine with you, feast upon the Word, and I will bring you another promise and guarantee, that you will taste and see the Lord in a deeper more intimate way this week.

Psalm 34:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Jesus the Captain of Our Salvation (2:10)

(Hebrews 2:10 NKJV) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Jesus marched / fought / victorious

Jesus would say I've marched the road you are on, I fought in the battle you now face, and I was victorious in all cases.

Captain – military / we are soldiers

The word captain used here in this verse brings to mind military operations, which it should being that we are called to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Tim 2:3) and are engaged in spiritual warfare right now.

2 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV) ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

our decorated and distinguished leader

Every soldier has a leader to lead them into battle, so let us look at our decorated and distinguished leader the Lord Jesus Christ:

- He was combat wounded, but has more than a Purple Heart, he has a ruptured heart from the cross, and from the spear that pierced His side on Calvary.
- He has more than a Medal of Honor, for he is crowned with glory and honor as He sits at the right hand of the Father (Heb 1:13,2:9).
- He has more than a Badge of Courage, as he took the cup of God's wrath to save us from death and separation (Matt 20:22).

John 19:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Hebrews 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

Matthew 20:22 (NKJV) ²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

seasoned veteran / undefeated / Counted the Cost

Our Captain is a seasoned veteran, yet He is and always will be undefeated and unmatched. The greatest victory in History took place some 2,000 years ago, as Jesus conquered sin and death. Blood was shed in that battle, Divine blood, but Jesus for the joy set before Him endured the cross (Heb 12:2). Jesus counted the cost and considered it worth the price, His life, to engage the enemy so that we might be free. Ohh that we would live daily reflecting on our worth. His enemies have become His footstool (Heb 1:13), and He has disarmed the principalities and powers, and He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (Col 2:15)

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ 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, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

no weapon / no prisoners / tore down the walls

By this we know that no weapon of the enemy can stand against Him. The enemy has no prisoners of the Lord's army, for the Lord has led the captives free, He has torn down the prison walls and has loosed the chains that would bind His soldiers.

The Lords Captives / citadels of our heart

But our Captain does take captives, those whose heart He has captured as He stormed the citadel of our heart with His never-ending love. Those of us who freely surrender to Him and say take me Lord I am yours. How can't we ask to be taken captive by Him, for He is the one who sets our spirit free, the bondage and the captivity are just a faded memory, God's loving hand is upon our lives, His loving face is in our sight all because of Him, the one who went to battle for us.

We might say we should call Him a five star General, but He is much greater than that, for He is the morning star that rises in our heart (2 Pet 1:19).

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

We fight from victory / don't look at the enemy – but the Captain

My brethren, fellow soldier, remember we are not fighting to victory, but we are fighting from victory, the victory our Captain won on the cross. So don't look at the enemy and the battle, but look to the Captain, and the victory.

Stonewall" Jackson

I am reminded of a story from the Civil War, Lieutenant General Thomas Jonathan Jackson, He is better known as "Stonewall" Jackson, who earned his nickname at the First Battle of Manassas. The Confederate forces were hard pressed. Brigadier General Barnard B. Bee, CSA, was desperately trying to rally his troops to withstand the Federal attack. Gen. Bee rode up to inform General Jackson that his forces were being beaten back. Jackson replied, "Sir, we will give them the bayonet."

General Bee immediately rallied the remnants of his brigade. His last words to them were, "*Form, form, there stands Jackson like a stone wall, rally behind the Virginians, Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer.*" His men followed him forward, routing the Yankees. Bee fell, mortally wounded, at the head of his troops.

There stands Jesus

My words to you today, no matter what you are facing is to, form, form, there stands Jesus Christ, like a Stone Wall, rally behind the Savior.

Me Personally – Never Lost a Battle

I can say this, before moving on, and it is a promise as He who relates to us and relays to us His power to fight and win for us, and that is that I personally can say I have never lost a battle where I let Jesus fight the battle for me, where I laid it at His feet and let all things come under subjection to Him. I have lost plenty of battle (that I have fought in my way and my will), but never have a lost a battle that I gave to Him the Captain of my salvation fight for me. So too I can promise and guarantee to you!

Jesus the Worshipper (2:11-12)

(Hebrews 2:11 NKJV) For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

(Hebrews 2:12 NKJV) saying:

***"I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."***

We are all one, and He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. Jesus is never ashamed to say, He or she is with me.

What Lord are you saying, Ray is Mine? Did you say Renee is Mine? Did You say Camden is Mine? Did you say (fill in your name)_____, to which He will say yes, "All Mine".

He worships in our midst

When we come together to worship, Jesus is in the midst of us. The object of our worship is Jesus, but He is also amongst us worshipping. Jesus is worshipping to the Father with us. He is in the midst of our church that is why worship is so spiritual.

John 4:21–24 (NKJV) ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Worship in Midst of War

And weave it all together and flow it all together, Jesus is the Captain of our Salvation, the fighting and conquering King, yet He worships in our midst.... And we are at war still as the devil is still squatting because Jesus' great grace, but see here this, Jesus can worship in the midst of war. Why? Because He is victorious, He knows He has won, and thus why He is seated on the throne, not pacing about the throne. There is a truth that can not be unseated, and that is that Jesus is alive and lives forever!

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

I will give you another great picture and illustration of worship, and that was Jesus in the garden, when He came to the place of peace..... not thy will but your will be done. Worship is not based on circumstances, but on the truth, Jesus who is the truth.

(Matthew 26:39 NKJV) *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

Jesus the One made like the Brethren (2:13-18)

(Hebrews 2:13 NKJV) And again:

"I will put My trust in Him."

And again:

"Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

(Hebrews 2:14 NKJV) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

(Hebrews 2:15 NKJV) and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Quoted from Isaiah 8:17.

deliver us from the fear of death

He came to deliver us from the fear of death. Do you have fears today, fears of death, fears of finances, fears in your relationship, fears in your job status? Jesus has come to release us from the bondage of those fears.

The corpse

How do we do that practically? Die to yourself, pick-up your cross and die to self. Go to a corpse and tell them their finances are doomed, they aren't going to get that promotion, guess what, it won't bother them a bit. Don't live for self, die to all those things, Jesus set us free from those fears through His death.

General Bee

My words to you today, no matter what you are facing, is what General Bee said to his men that day in Manassas, *"Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer."*

(Hebrews 2:16 NKJV) For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

(Hebrews 2:17 NKJV) Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

(Hebrews 2:18 NKJV) For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

He chose to be like us, so that he might be a merciful High Priest (we will talk more about this in chapter 5).

He would say "I know what you are going through, I went through the same, but did not sin."

Related / Priest / worship / cupbearer / Captain

He suffered the temptation so that we may be able to relate to Him, and Him to us. Being our High Priest, being one with us in worship, being our Cupbearer, dying for us – The Captain of Our Salvation.

Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

- Warning #1 – Drifting Away (2:1-4)
- Jesus the Ruler (2:5-8)
- Jesus the Jesus the Cupbearer (2:9)
- Jesus the Captain of Our Salvation (2:10)
- Jesus the Worshipper (2:11-12)
- Jesus the One made like the Brethren (2:13-18)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?

- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews Chapter 3

Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

Passage: Hebrews 3:1-19

Title: Jesus the Master Builder

Summary: In our passage today, we see Jesus is the "Master Builder", and He is building something wonderful, the Church (us). We have a warm and wonderful passage regarding what He is doing in our lives presently and eternally. However, the Lord gives us a warning in the midst of the warming, and that is don't let unbelief rob you of your reward.]

Hebrews 3 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. ³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. ⁵ And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" ¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, ¹⁵ while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." ¹⁶ For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? ¹⁷ Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

about the superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Better

The word *better* is used thirteen times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation over the Hebrew system of religion. Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4). He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19) because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Perfect

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen times. It means a perfect standing before God. This perfection could never be accomplished by the levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11) or by the Law (Heb. 7: 19), nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1). Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Eternal

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - . Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12) and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8) and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21). "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Combine all 3

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings

- are eternal
- and they give us a perfect standing before God.

The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations – cross – right hand

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God
Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man
Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses
Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete
Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest
Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance
Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek
Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete
Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full
Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient
Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith
Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith
Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

- Jesus the Apostle and High Priest (3:1)
- Jesus the Master Builder/Carpenter (3:2-6)
- Warning #2 – Doubting (3:7-19)

The author / Moses / Jesus greater

The author has soundly brought the point out to the reader that Jesus is superior to the angels (chapter 1&2), and now in chapter 3 he will bring to point that Jesus is superior to Moses. Next to Abraham, Moses was undoubtedly the most greatly revered man among the Jewish people. To go back to the Law, the temple worship, meant to go back to Moses. It was important to the writer to convince his reader that Jesus Christ is greater than Moses, for the entire system of Jewish religion came through Moses. In this chapter we will see that as great as Moses is, Jesus is greater, Jesus is superior, Jesus is the Faithful One.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus the Apostle and High Priest (3:1)

(Hebrews 3:1 NKJV) Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

Sent One

Notice Jesus the Apostle; Apostle means “sent one”. Jesus is the sent one. In the Gospel of John we read repeatedly that Jesus is sent from God, **for He is the final message from God**, the message is complete. (John 3:17, 34; 5:36, 38; 6:29, 57; 7:29; 10:36; 11:42; 17:3)

(John 3:17 NKJV) "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

(John 3:34 NKJV) "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

*(John 5:36 NKJV) "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish; the very works that I do; bear witness of Me, **that the Father has sent Me.***

*(John 5:38 NKJV) "But you do not have His word abiding in you, **because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.***

*(John 6:29 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, **that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"*

(John 6:57 NKJV) "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

*(John 7:29 NKJV) "But I know Him, for I am from Him, **and He sent Me.**"*

*(John 10:36 NKJV) "do you say of Him **whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world,** 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"*

*(John 11:42 NKJV) "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, **that they may believe that You sent Me.**"*

*(John 17:3 NKJV) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and **Jesus Christ whom You have sent.***

Apostle & High Priest

This first verse is a beautiful picture of our Savior; He is the “sent One” and our High Priest. Jesus comes to us as an Apostle, and He intercedes for us as our “cupbearer” and the “Captain of Our Salvation.”

Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Sent for us, sent for you, sent by God, He sent His only Son... for you, for me, what is man that You are mindful of him as we studied last week, oh what God would do and did for us:

Hebrews 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?"

Holy Brethren / Not ashamed

Look at the beautiful promises that come with Him being the Apostle and High Priest. We are called “holy brethren”, we are “partakers of the “heavenly calling.” Holy Brethren, how comforting, even when I don’t feel so holy. As we studied last week, he is not ashamed to call us “brethren” **Hebrews 2:11 (NKJV)** ¹¹ *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

They’re not mine

I am reminded of a story of a Christian Club at a major college university. They were having a bonfire, and the purpose of the bonfire was to bring all the things that were keeping a person in bondage, and to throw them in the fire. There was a young man who had so looked forward to this bonfire, he couldn’t wait to throw his bondage into the fire. Unfortunately, earlier in the day while visiting his parents a hundred miles away his car broke down. So he called his best friend, who just happened to be the starting quarterback and most known person on campus. He said please, I want to see these things burn, will you please take the box under my bed to the bonfire and toss them for me. The quarterback said he would. So that night, as the quarterback pulled the box from under the bed, his heart sank, for it was full of pornographic magazines. But nonetheless, he took them down to the fire. When He got there the fire and activities were in full swing. People were throwing bottles of alcohol, and the crowd would cheer, boxes of cigarettes, bags of marijuana; with each toss, the crowd would cheer louder and louder. Well the quarterback shows up, and all eyes turn on him, what did he bring, what is his sin, what is his bondage. As he uncovers the box they see the pornography and gasps. He takes a hand full of magazines and tosses them, the crowd cheers, with each toss they cheer louder and louder; but what they couldn’t hear was that with each toss he would scream – they’re not mine, they’re not mine.

Jesus never once said they’re not mine

But holy brethren, never once when Jesus hung on the cross did, he ever say, they’re not mine, they’re not mine; for He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Rather when He hung on the cross that day, He would say they’re mine, they’re all mine forever. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross so that he may say, they are mine, they’re all mine.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ *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, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

He is Faithful, He is the “Sent One”, sent to us and for us.

Jesus the Master Builder/Carpenter (3:2-6)

(Hebrews 3:2 NKJV) who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

Jesus was “faithful” to Him who appointed Him (God). The theme of the chapter here is faithfulness, and we see Jesus was faithful to what God called Him to do, and thus in verses 7-19 we will be given a calling to be and stay faithful. But for here in this section, Jesus was faithful, because He is faithful, and we can rest and move though life based on the truth.

(Hebrews 3:3 NKJV) For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

(Hebrews 3:4 NKJV) For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

(Hebrews 3:5 NKJV) And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,

(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Moses served God's house / Jesus the builder

Moses in 'all his house' doesn't mean a literal house, but a people. Moses did a great job being a servant in the house, but it was Jesus who created the house. Moses did a great job serving the people, but Jesus created the people, and the Creator is always greater than the creation. The builder always has a piece in ownership.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Jesus is the Master Carpenter

Christ built the house, and notice verse 6, Jesus is over the house, and we are His house:

(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are

Jesus is the Master Carpenter, as He builds a body (Eph 5 / 1 Cor 3:16). Jesus is the Master Carpenter, and He is fitting every piece (you and me) so perfectly together to make Himself a Body, which is His Church, which is His Bride.

(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NKJV) ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Depending on your translation, for one of the most quoted verses in the Bible, John 14:1-2, your translation may say mansions, or it may say rooms. The Greek word simply means "dwellings". I believe rooms is the better translation, because that is how I see this relationship being with us. I don't want to live down the street in a great mansion, and be distant from Him, I want to be with Him. In the Jewish culture when a son took a bride, he would build a room unto his father's house, it was an addition, to which he brought his bride into upon marriage.

John 14:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

I remember when I was in Bible College, and my friend Scott who was on staff at the college. He caught the heart of young woman who like him was a student then stayed at the school and went on staff. Their first kiss was at the altar on their wedding day. They truly were two very special people, and amazing hearts for one another and the Lord. Scott was surely to this day one of the meekest, humblest, and greatest men of God I have ever had the honor to meet and become friends with. Let me tell you, Bible College was no easy road. It wasn't worship and fellowship, and some casual Bible studies. We were up early for specific breakfast time in the cafeteria, then student body morning devotions, then classroom studies, then specific lunch time, then classroom studies, and everyone served at the campus in some way or another for 2-4 hours a day (it was to develop a servant's heart and to community share in keeping the prices down by doing the upkeep and maintenance ourselves rather than paying some from the outside to do it – I had it pretty good as I did maintenance and forestry), and then we had specific time for dinner, then after that the evening was your to do as you wish. I had 2 roommates and we we never got tired of being together and we fellowshiped and enjoyed each other. But lots of time it was to the library to research and write, because we were there to draw near to the Lord, and for many of us to prepare for the ministry (whether missions or pastoral).

Me and my roommates spent countless time together, but Scott who I mentioned though a good friend, he didn't have time to hang out with us. Being on staff he was as busy as us, sometimes busier. I was in bed by 11, midnight at the latest, then all of us back up around 6-7am. Not Scott, he was up until 2-3am every day. See the school had properties around the campus to house the staff (teachers, support workers, pastors), as they didn't live in the dorms of course. So Scott was assigned a house, an old somewhat well-used house just off of the campus, that when he and Denise got married would be their staff housing. And every night for all those months of engagement, after all the campus/school work was done, Scott would go to that house and until 2-3 in the morning, and prepare a place for his bride. She never saw it until their wedding. He

never tired, he was never cranking in the morning, he was always smiling and filled with joy; I literally never say him sour, but always sweetness and the joy of the Lord. He knew what he was building for, and building to, a bride that he had waited his whole life for, and to which he was going to love and cherish with his whole heart and being.

And so, Jesus, the master builder, is preparing a place for His Bride. I think of last week study that He worships in our midst. He is giving glory and honor to God the Father, He leads us into the throne of heaven as we worship, He takes us to the Father and says this one is mine, is he/she the most beautiful thing you have ever seen. And, when we sleep, Jesus gets the hammer out, the saw, puts on the carpenter belt, and prepares a place for us, not down the street distant away, but in the Father's house.

Now back to Moses, as we move on.

Jesus is greater than Moses / Don't Go back to Religion

Moses could only serve the people, it was Jesus who created them. Jesus is greater than Moses, that is the main point the author is making here in chapter 3. There is no reason to go back to religion and the law, for Jesus is superior, and the message of salvation is complete in Him.

Moses the example

Look at Moses, what a man of God. Moses talked with God, he performed miracles, he interceded for the people, he stood against the pharaoh, he led the people out of bondage; as great as Moses is, Jesus is superior.

One thing Moses couldn't do / Unbelief kept them wandering

Moses did great things, but as great as Moses was, there was one thing he couldn't do, and that was that he could not lead them into rest. Moses led them out of the bondage of Egypt, but he couldn't lead them into the Promised Land. They were close, but because of their unbelief, they would spend another 40 years wandering in the wilderness. We are not able cried the 10 spies, and all the people joined with them. There are giants in the land, they are huge, we are just grasshoppers, we can't take the land. We are able said Moses, Joshua, and Caleb. The people went backwards in unbelief (doubting), instead of forward in faith, they missed their inheritance and died in the wilderness. It was the new generation that possessed the land and entered into their rest. They looked at their limitation, instead of looking to God and believing His promise. **Numbers 13:31-14:2 (NKJV)** ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." ³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. ³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." ¹ So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

Even Moses ended up failing

Even Moses ended up failing, for he failed in belief when he smote the rock, lost his temper, misrepresented God. God said Moses you misrepresented me, I'm not angry with the people, you can't enter into the Promised Land.

Numbers 20:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. ¹² Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

The author makes his point

The author makes his point, Moses could not bring the children of Israel into the rest of the Promised land, even as great as he is. Jesus is superior to Moses, and He can bring you into rest. But you can't doubt, and that brings us to Warning #2.

Warning #2 – Doubting (3:7-19)

6 Warnings of the Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

This Group / Soon Shaken

This group of people written to, many had lost their jobs, their homes, their business, some have been killed or persecuted (Hebrews 10). They could hear the trumpets blowing at the temple, they could see their friends heading to the temple to offer sacrifices, they could see how easy their lives were, and they would ask themselves, what is the use of fighting against it, why not go back to the old way, everything was easier, no hardships and sufferings. They would say to themselves, after all I'm saved, I can blend back in, it isn't a big deal, I've accepted Jesus. Others may have been saying, my life has been nothing but pain since I gave my life to Jesus, where is He during the hard times, where is this life, and that more abundant that he promised, I don't see the advantage of being a Christian. What they didn't know was, that soon, those very same people who they thought had it better, that their lives were going to be shaken, for in just a few years, Nero would come in and not only destroy the temple, he would slaughter thousands of Jews. They say that they blood flowed through the streets of Jerusalem like a river. For those people who ignored the "Final Sacrifice", they would have no foundation to fall back on, and for many, they would have missed out on the opportunity of eternal life in the presence of the King.

Hold Fast

We are to hold fast, notice verse 6, "if we hold fast". That word "if" can also mean "since". Since we hold fast to the confidence and rejoicing to the end.

(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

The Author is going to say to the reader, don't doubt that God will do all He said He will do, no matter how bad things get for you, no matter how bad you want to quit, hold-on, He will do all that He says He will.

Psalm 95:7-11 / speaking of today

Verses 7-11 are Quoted from Psalm 95:7-11, it reflects on the children of Israel not entering the Promised land because of their unbelief, and warns the reader today, don't miss out on the rest, the promised land today because of your unbelief. It is speaking of today, not just eternity. (How do I know it is speaking of today and just eternity, because there are no giants in heaven, and there are no battles to fight in heaven.)

Psalm 95:7–11 (NKJV) ⁷ For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. ¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

(Hebrews 3:7 NKJV) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,

Again, this is quoting Psalm 95. The Spirit is confirming that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and specifically the point being made is to affirm that the Old Testament is as equally inspired as the New Testament.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Knowing the Psalm – Knowing the Shepherd

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11,
2 Corinthians 11:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.*

“My speech might be a little rough,” said Paul, “but not my knowledge.”

Asked to quote Psalm 23, the famous Shakespearean actor articulated each and every phrase perfectly. Then the host of the party asked his pastor, who was also in attendance, to quote the same psalm. The pastor lacked the rhythmic cadence, the powerful voice, and the smooth speech. All he had was a tear rolling down his cheek.

“I know the psalm,” said the actor. “But this man knows the Shepherd.”

Paul knew the Shepherd. Paul knew Jesus. “I might not match up to your favorite speakers or profound teachers,” he said. “I might not measure up in speech, but in knowledge I do, for I know Him.”

I pray we all stop, and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to us today, and that we may know Him, more intimately and personally, and heed this warning for our life today.

(Hebrews 3:8 NKJV)

*Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
In the day of trial in the wilderness,*

(Hebrews 3:9 NKJV)

*Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,
And saw My works forty years.*

Rather than trust God, they tested and tried God. The wilderness wanderers pushed God's patience. The Hebrews who exited Egypt refused to take God at His word. They insisted over and over that He do something to prove Himself... You'd think Moses turning the river to blood, or parting the Red Sea would've sealed their faith forever, but realize miracles alone are not what produce faith. More often than not all miracles create is a desire for more miracles.

Faith grows by taking God at His Word. God has done more than enough miracles to prove Himself to us. **It's now time we rested in His promises.**

We have to cultivate, like any relationship, a closeness and oneness with the Shepherd, we must know the Shepherd if we are going to trust His Word.

(Hebrews 3:10 NKJV)

*Therefore I was angry with that generation,
And said, 'They always go astray in their heart,
And they have not known My ways.'*

The Jews who followed Moses were acquainted with God's works. For 40 years they saw His miracles on a daily basis, but they never learned God's ways. When we learn and know God's way, we will trust Him and His ways, and find total rest in our lives, even in the midst of the storms of life.

(Hebrews 3:11 NKJV)

*So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest.'"*

Look for God's works, without listening to His words, and living His way, and He'll sentence you to perpetual restlessness. You can kiss the peace of God goodbye. You'll spend your whole life wandering in a spiritual wilderness. Just ask the children of Israel.

We are told in 1 Corinthians these things are written for us so we don't make the same mistake they made.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

(Hebrews 3:12 NKJV) Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

(Hebrews 3:13 NKJV) but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Today: There is urgency to the voice of the Holy Spirit. He never prompts us to get right with God tomorrow, or to trust in yesterday—the Holy Spirit only moves us to act today.

The Holy Spirit tells us today because it is a genuine invitation. We know that the Holy Spirit really wants us to come to Jesus because He says, "today." If someone asks me to come over their house for dinner but they give no day or time, I know it isn't a firm invitation yet. But when they say, "Come over on this day at this time," I know it is a firm invitation, that they want me to come, that they are ready for me to come, and that it will be prepared for my coming. The Holy Spirit gives you a time for His invitation—today. (Guzik)

(Hebrews 3:14 NKJV) For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

(Hebrews 3:15 NKJV) while it is said:

***"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."***

Again he quotes familiar verses, Psalm 95:7-8. Every Jew had this passage memorized. It was used in Jewish synagogues to call the people to their evening worship. Yet sadly, though the Hebrews heard these words week-after-week, most of them never took heed. Obviously, hearing and heeding are not the same.

(Hebrews 3:16 NKJV) For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

(Hebrews 3:17 NKJV) Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

When the moment of decision arrived at the threshold of Canaan only two men believed. The other ten spies saw giants in the land and fortified cities - the obstacles. All twelve spies saw the same variables, but what doubters saw as stumbling blocks, Joshua and Caleb saw as steppingstones. The difference? Eyes of faith. The two who believed entered. The 10 spies that didn't, died in the wilderness. Those 10 spies were able to influence some 2 million people to all be fearful. Twelve spies went into the land, but 10 came out cowards, and cowardice is contagious, and it spread through all the people.

Numbers 14:26-33 (NKJV) ²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ²⁷ "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰ Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. ³¹ But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. ³² But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.

(Hebrews 3:18 NKJV) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

(Hebrews 3:19 NKJV) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

And here we see a vital principal, that clearly speaks, no need to try to say “what does this really mean”, for it means just what it say, they chose not to obey, they doubted God at His word, and they could not enter into the Promised Land – the key principal, God gives man a free-will to choose

Listen, you can have all of Jesus Christ you want, but not one drop more. No man, government, or program can stop the work of God in your life – only you can by doubting.

Blood & Water

The ones, who could not enter into the blessings, were the ones that would not claim and seize the promises of God. They were delivered from Egypt by blood and water. They placed the blood over the door and the angel of death passed them. Then Pharaoh said go away from us, but as they marched, he changed his mind and sent his whole army after them. The nation Israel was on the verge of being wiped out as they were backed against the Red Sea, but God delivered them again, this time by water as he parted the Red Sea, and they passed, then He closed the Red Sea and wiped out their enemy, the whole Egyptian Army.

Blood and Water, what came from Jesus’ side that day on the cross, when the soldier pierced his side, blood and water.

John 19:33–34 (NKJV) ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Too many Christian wander / spirit filled abundant life

Too many Christian wander in that place between deliverance and the promised blessing, that spirit filled abundant life. Too many Christians in the wilderness, wandering the dry Christian life, they are saved by blood and water of the salvation on the cross, but never believe that salvation is just the beginning of the blessings that God has for them. The sin that kept them from blessings was that they thought it was too good to be true. When they saw the giants, they gave up.

You must step out / Convince Self God will bless / look at Jesus not the giants

Christian you can live the abundant Christian life if only you will believe, if only you will step out to take the land. Believe the Father wants to bless you, even though we are all nothings. We convince ourselves that God won’t bless us because we have done this or are involved in that; don’t listen to that, don’t look at the giants, rather look at the giant killer – Jesus Christ.

Learn this one lesson today / nothing less than my Utmost for His Highest

Learn this one lesson today – Blessings, anointing, ministry, fruitfulness, victory, it is not about you, but about His Faithfulness. We are nothing, we are nothing but sinners, but He is faithful, and all we have to do is exercise our free-will and say Lord I believe you are faithful. I sound like I am contradicting myself, but listen, when you release yourself from having to be the faithful one, and just trust in the faithful one, Jesus Christ, then you will begin to claim those victories in your life, and begin seeing the fruit of the Spirit in your life, you will see God using you in the ministry, and His anointing to be upon you. Why? Because when you see yourself, you hopelessness, your wretchedness, but see His faithfulness in spite of it all, then you will cling to Him, you will desire Him, you will thirst for Him, you will say, “nothing less than my Utmost for His Highest”, for I believe that is where life, and that more abundant truly resides.

He is faithful. He says they’re mine, they’re all mine.

Before we close, I ask, what is it, that you have not stepped into by faith and taken?

Conclusion

Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

- Jesus the Apostle and High Priest (3:1)
- Jesus the Master Builder/Carpenter (3:2-6)
- Warning #2 – Doubting (3:7-19)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews Chapter 4

Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

Passage: Hebrews 4:1-14

Title: Putting the Word to Work

Summary: In our passage today, we see the children of Israel could not enter into the rest of the Promised Land because of their unbelief. The Lord says the same can be true for us. But the Lord makes it really simple how to enter into His promises, and it is by we are told in our passage “the word mixed with faith”. In this chapter we will see how to more than just read God’s Word, but to put it to work for our good and the promises of God.

Hebrews 4 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. ³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest,” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁵ and again in this place: “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁶ Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹ There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Addressed to Believers being Drawn back into Judaism

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

Book is About the Superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

- Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God
- Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man
- Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses
- Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete
- Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest
- Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance
- Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek
- Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete
- Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full
- Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient
- Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith
- Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith
- Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Recap 1-2-3

In chapters 1 and 2 we saw that Jesus is superior to the angels, and we saw His Deity and His humanity. In Hebrews 3 we saw that Jesus is superior to Moses". We saw that Moses could lead them out of Egypt, but he couldn't lead them into the Promised Land, he couldn't lead them into their rest. Why?

(Hebrews 3:19 NKJV) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Unbelief Kept them Out

Do you see there in verse 19 the thing that kept them out of the blessing was unbelief? I would think they couldn't enter because of their lack of devotion, gross sin, lack of purity, lack of dedication, but it was unbelief - the failure to believe it and receive it. So too is it true for us, the thing that will keep us out of God's blessing is not our devotion or dedication, but simply not believing that God is who He says He is, and can do what He says He can do.

This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

- Jesus – Our Promise of Rest (4:1-2)
- Jesus – A Greater Rest than the Sabbath (4:3-6)
- Jesus - A Greater Rest than the Promised Land (4:7-8)
- Jesus – Gives Us Rest from Our Works (4:9-10)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Word (4:11-13)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Intercession (4:14-16)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus – Our Promise of Rest (4:1-2)

(Hebrews 4:1 NKJV) Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

We Should Fear Not Entering His Rest

What should we be afraid of, what should we fear? We should be fearful of not entering into God's rest. Unbelief will keep you from entering into His rest!

Israel Limited / They Limited Jesus / Jesus Marveled

We have read that Israel limited the Holy One because of unbelief. Read Psalm 78 for a quick history of Israel's disobedience and unbelief.

Jesus could do no mighty work in His hometown because of unbelief

Matthew 13:57–58 (NKJV) ⁵⁷ So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." ⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Jesus marveled at their unbelief

Mark 6:6 (NKJV) ⁶ And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

It is True – Believe It

And here in this verse, the fear is that we would say it is too good to be true, all his promises are too good to be for me. The author is telling these Jews don't go back to Judaism, don't go back to religion, Jesus is the ultimate rest, He is the final rest. Brethren believe it! It is so good, it has to be true. All His blessing are for us, and He wants us to have them.

(Hebrews 4:2 NKJV) For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Word Not Mixed with Faith

Why should we believe? Because the Good News, gospel means "Good News." The message was preached to Israel, the good news, there is a land flowing with milk and honey, it is yours for the taking, go get it.

Notice:

but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

NOT being "mixed with faith"

Mixing the word and faith. The word mixed means (to combine and unite into one structure). It is like mixing all the materials needed for concrete. That is the picture given here, like mixing concrete to lay a foundation down, and then to build up upon. Last study we said Jesus is the master builder and He is building Himself something, a church and a bride. He builds by mixing the word and faith into one, and building up and off of.

When I worked at Space Center, when we launched a rocket, we were only maybe 400 yards from the rocket that had oh about 100,000 gallons of highly explosive fuel on it. Well we sat in what was called a "block house", and it was basically a bunker that was designed that if the rocket literally hit it, we would survive. It was built with double concrete walls, with 6 foot of sand between the walls. It was a bunker that could take a direct hit, and Christian when we mix the word and faith together, that is exactly what God builds into our lives, a bunker that can take a direct hit from anything and everything.

We Grasshoppers – They Giants / This Can't be True

Now regarding our passage today, the children of Israel when they came into the Promised Land to spy it out (those 12 spies), ten of them came out and saidBut they said ohh no, we're just grasshoppers, there are giants in the land, we can't take it, it can't be true. These people heard the good news but didn't mix it with faith. What will keep you from the blessings for you and your family and your ministry, simply this, not believing what God says, not applying His Word mixed with faith.

Numbers 13:31–33 (NKJV) ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." ³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. ³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

How do I Apply It / Peter the Example

Application: how do I apply this thing called faith to my life, how do I do it practically? How do I apply the Word mixed with faith? We see Peter give us the example in Acts 12.

Acts 12:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. ² Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. ⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. ⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." ⁹ So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Recap Story

Peter is imprisoned because King Herod had just killed James and saw that the people loved it, and it made him popular. So he arrested Peter and planned on killing him as an encore. But while Peter was bound in prison an angel came to him, the night before he was to be killed. Now Peter was bound with chains, chained to two soldiers, and there were two guards at each of the prison doors. Peter was asleep and the angel poked him in the side (imagine that), the loosed the chains and said get up Peter, get your running shoes on we're out of here. So out they went, the prison doors opened wide for Peter with guards oblivious to it all. As Peter walked out the prison Peter wasn't sure if he was dreaming or it was real, then when he got outside the gates of the city the angel left him, and Peter knew it was real. You know the rest of the story, Peter goes to the house where the prayer meeting was (praying for his release), knocks on the door, and they don't believe it was him. He has to knock twice before they let him in.

2 Choices

Now, when the angel said "Let's Go", Peter had two choices, he could have rolled back over to sleep still bound in his chains, and said naah this is too good to be true, it's only a dream, I can only dream of being free.

Main Point

OR, He could get up and go. **HAD PETER NOT STOOD UP AND STEPPED OUT AND STARTED MOVING, HE WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN IN HIS PRISON.**

How about You / Just Stay in Prison / Claim it for Heaven

How about you, God gives a promise to you, a promise to me, and we say: well that's a nice thought, but it can't really be true, it is just something to dream about. It can't really mean that I can step out this thing into something wonderful. I'll just stay stay here in my prison and wait for my death and be content with the thought that the promise is really talking about when I get to heaven, and not today for me to claim.

Lord Says "get up, step out, go for"

Hey you, the Lord is saying, get up, step out, go for it, and you will discover it is reality. God is doing a work in your life.

Apply the Word in Your Life – Mixed with Faith

THE WORD MIXED WITH FAITH MEANS WE STAND UP, STEP OUT, AND START MOVING.

The word is given and you put it into operation:

- I believe you will never leave me nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5), So I am going to step out into the ministry and serve you no matter how scary it may seem.
- I believe in train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he shall return (Proverbs 22:6), So today I am going to pray for my child believing you will do I work, I praise you in advance for what you will do in his life.

- I believe God will supply all my needs (Philippians 4:19), So I will continue to give to the works of saints trusting you will supply my needs
- I believe all things work together for good (Romans 8:28), So I am going to love my spouse and fight for my marriage and take the past pains and use them to strengthen our marriage.
- I believe God will be with me even to the ends of the world (Acts 1:8), So I am going to go on living and praising and witnessing of You to all that will listen, to the ends of the earth.

Start Moving

Whatever the word is that the Lord has spoken, whether it is your family, your marriage, your ministry, stand up, step out, and start moving.

How much Faith does it take / Mustard Seed / Prayer meeting?

How much faith does it really take on our behalf, about as much as a mustard seed.

(Matthew 17:20 NKJV) So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

That is about how much the disciples had who were in that prayer meeting. They were having a prayer meeting specifically for Peter's release, and when it happened, they couldn't believe it.

Acts 12:12-17 (NKJV) ¹² So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. ¹³ And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

Prayer all it takes to Get it Moving

I believe prayer is all it takes to get things moving, because God is a loving Father who wants to bless His kids. Prayer is all it takes for chains and prison doors to open. Great things happen when you take God's Word and apply faith to it.

Don't Over-Analyze

Now Israel had heard the good news in the wilderness but they wouldn't apply faith to it, and they wandered and wasted forty years of their life. I think we can spend too much time analyzing the situation and it gives us cold feet. Israel for instance when the Red Sea opened, they had enough faith to go through the water walls, trusting that they were not going to collapse on them. If God could do that, then surely He could wipe out mere giants in the Promised Land. But I think they had too much time to analyze what was before them in entering the Promised Land, and then their reasoning got in the way. If God's given you something to do, get up and get busy before you talk yourself out of it.

Next 2 Points

The author will make two direct points to his Jewish readers; their rest is not in the Sabbath nor the Promised Land. He has to dispel that from their minds in order for them to see the greater rest that is in Jesus Christ.

Jesus – A Greater Rest than the Sabbath (4:3-6)

(Hebrews 4:3 NKJV) For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

*"So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest,' "*

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

(Hebrews 4:4 NKJV) For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way:

"And God rested on the seventh day from all His works";

(Hebrews 4:5 NKJV) and again in this place:

"They shall not enter My rest."

(Hebrews 4:6 NKJV) Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,

This is a quote from Psalm 95 (twice) and Genesis 2.

Psalm 95:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

Genesis 2:2 (NKJV) ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Psalm 95:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

Every Jew had this passage memorized. It was used in Jewish synagogues to call the people to their evening worship. Yet sadly, though the Hebrews heard these words week-after-week, most of them never took heed. Obviously, hearing and heeding are not the same.

Faith is Relaxing

Faith is so relaxing, it is rest. Unbelief and doubt is what will churn your stomach and keep you up all night.

Sabbath / 6&1 / Still future Psalm 95 – Looking Unto Jesus

Now the author is writing to Jewish people, and they related rest to the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the one day off a week, which was patterned after God's six days of creation and resting on the seventh. But Psalmist in Psalm 95 is talking about a rest that is still future, it is talking about a rest deeper than the Sabbath Day, something so deep it was established before the foundations of the world..... a resting in Him, that He is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. There is nothing more we have to look forward to today, because rest has come, and the name of rest is Jesus.

Meribah and Massah

I find Psalm 95 so applicable for us, and I believe a reason have rest, or times we don't have rest. The author here has twice quoted. In the context, verse 11 is with 8-9

Psalm 95:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.

Psalm 95:8-9 (KJV 1900) ⁸ Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, And as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: ⁹ When your fathers tempted me, Proved me, and saw my work.

Psalm 95:8-9 (ESV) ⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Underline those words "in the provocation" and the word "temptation." These words are Meribah and Massah in the Hebrew. See the ESV translation which literally uses the words Meribah and Massah. They have been translated in the King James Version following the Septuagint and other ancient versions. Many scholars feel they should have been left to stand untranslated. In the Revised Version, for instance, the verse reads: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness."

The names Meribah and Massah take us back to the story of the exodus. We turn first to Exodus 17:1-7. The children of Israel complained and murmured against Moses and God about there being no water. It was the place that God provided them water from the Rock, which was a picture of Jesus.

Exodus 17:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the

sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Now go back to Psalm 95, and look at it again. In verses 1-6 are pure worship, and 7-11 are the flashback to the complaining and murmuring of Exodus 17.

Psalm 95 (NKJV) ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. ³ For the LORD *is* the great God, And the great King above all gods. ⁴ In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills *are* His also. ⁵ The sea *is* His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry *land*. ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

⁷ For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness. ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. ¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with *that* generation, And said, 'It *is* a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

The reference here is to Meribah (Exodus 17). After the Lord had set His people free from their bondage in Egypt, after He had parted the Red Sea for them, they found themselves hot and thirsty. They could have trusted God. Instead, they murmured and complained. The result was hardened hearts. So too, at any given moment, I'm either going to be worshiping or murmuring. Thanksgiving leads to grace and glory. Murmuring, on the other hand, leads to discouragement and depression. Murmuring will take us down faster than anything else. When do we murmur? More often than not, as with the children of Israel, it's when we're going through a dry spell. And when we're dry, we're vulnerable to complaining. "Don't let that happen," the psalmist says. The Israelites had seen God's work. So have we. We have seen Him save us from hell, take up residence in our hearts, adopt us as sons and plant us in His kingdom. Therefore, regardless of how dry the day might be, we have more than enough reason to rejoice and worship Him enthusiastically.

The tendency to murmur that began in the dry days at Meribah seemed to set a pattern for the children of Israel. Soon, they began to murmur about everything. It was murmuring that eventually kept them from their destiny, for when they were camped at Kadesh-Barnea on the very border of the Promised Land, they believed the report of the ten spies who complained that the giants were unbeatable rather than realizing that no man was a match for the God who had parted the Red Sea. Murmuring is like cancer—it just begins to spread and take over. How can we keep from murmuring? What is the cure for murmuring? Worship.

Jesus - A Greater Rest than the Promised Land (4:7-8)

(Hebrews 4:7 NKJV) again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said:

***"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts."***

(Hebrews 4:8 NKJV) For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

Quoting Psalm 95 again,

Psalm 95:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness,

Again he quotes familiar verses, Psalm 95:7-8. Every Jew had this passage memorized. It was used in Jewish synagogues to call the people to their evening worship. Yet sadly, though the Hebrews heard these words week-after-week, most of them never took heed. Obviously, hearing and heeding are not the same.

Promised Land / Joshua Brought them / Still Future

Some Jews would say the rest spoken of is entering into the Promised Land. But the author is still talking about a greater rest and makes his point in that Joshua did take the people into the

Promised Land, yet God still promised a rest that was still yet future. Psalm 95 was written by David long after Joshua took the people into the Promised Land.

People today are Craving

People today are craving what the Jews wanted then, but they will be like them, for they will not enter rest. People today want a Sabbath, a day off. They want a promised land, a great location. The world is saying

- if I can just get a vacation,
- a day off,
- if I can just find a new location to live

then things will be better, then I can rest. But they really are craving, and don't or won't realize, is that they are craving this rest that is spoken of here, the rest that Jesus gives. You can take a vacation, go travel and surf and ski, but it never satisfies, for you are always looking for the next time. What people are really craving for is the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ. Every man wants peace and security in his life, every man wants to know that tomorrow everything will be alright. That rest and assurance can only come through Jesus Christ, and His finished works.

Jesus – Gives Us Rest from Our Works (4:9-10)

(Hebrews 4:9 NKJV) There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

(Hebrews 4:10 NKJV) For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Not Here on Earth / Nor Work for It

The rest isn't a day or place here on earth, but the rest is in Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus is superior, because the works of man are complete, salvation is secured. The rest being spoken of is giving up on my works to earn my salvation or God's favor. It is not our righteousness or anything we can do, but it is all what He has done, and we rest in that.

***Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)** ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

***Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV)** ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Seated / No Seat in Tabernacle/ Work is Done

***(Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)** who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

He is seated, the works are done. In the Old Testament, there was no seat in the tabernacle. The reason there was no seat was because the work was never done. The sacrifice for sin had to be done over and over. Jesus is seated, because the work, the sacrifice for sin, is done.

In 1 Peter 5:7, says cast all your cares (word is anxiety) upon Him, for He cares for you. The word for care as it points to Him is not the word anxiety, for He is anxious about nothing, because He is resting in His finished work, the word for care is to "take care, cares about". May we rest from our works, and simply rest in His.

***1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)** ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

And now the author goes back to his point about unbelief and how robs the person of rest. He goes back to the final and ultimate rest, Jesus Christ.

Jesus – Rest is Given through His Word (4:11-13)

(Hebrews 4:11 NKJV) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Diligent – Labor / Corrie TenBoom

Verse 11 tells us, “Let us therefore be diligent (or literally, labor) to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

”This sounds contradictory... we labor to rest? Yet here’s the point, entering God’s rest does take a major effort. We need to hold fast to Jesus! Have faith in Jesus! Consider Christ! Keep our eyes on Jesus!

We are mixing the word and faith into a solid concrete that is bunker and a foundation that can’t be shaken.

Corrie Ten Boom once said, “Look within and be depressed. Look without and be distressed. But look to Jesus and be at rest.”

And it takes effort to keep looking in the right direction -to avoid the distractions

Denver Zoo

Years ago the Denver Zoo was given a huge white polar bear the animal was beautiful but the zoo had no place to exhibit the bear. Funds had to be raised to build an environment similar to its natural habitat in the meantime the bear was placed in a small temporary cage the space was so small the bear could only take three steps in any direction turn around and then take three steps in the opposite direction well the bear repeated this pattern over and over. Well after years of construction the bear finally got its new home and it was a magnificent venue it had caves and waterfalls and rocks there was plenty of room for the bear to roam but when he was unleashed he took three steps turned around and took three steps back, the bear repeated the maneuver over and over.

And so too it can be for us that we spend so much time in the place of unbelief they were just walking three feet in each direction while the Lord is spreading His hand saying all this I've given you to enjoy to have to enter in to the abundant life which there you will truly find rest but so often we've conditioned ourselves but this is only as far as we can go and as far as God is and then we find ourselves in anything but rest.

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Hebrews 4:13 NKJV) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

It is a Living Word!

The word is living because Jesus is alive! A living God who “speaks” to His people, and that is what makes this word so powerful!

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Powerful (Energy)

4:12. God’s warning from Psalm 95 is still in force. The Word is “quick,” meaning “alive” (zōn emphatically stands first in the verse). It is “powerful,” meaning “active.” It is “sharper than any two-edged sword” because it penetrates more than the physical body. It is comprehensive in its effects. It reaches into all the various parts and functions of the individual and makes judgments. The emphasis is not upon the separation of one part from another, but upon the penetration of all

the individual parts, even down to the innermost secrets and purposes which are hidden in the core of an individual's consciousness, away from the eyes of other people.

I like the word here for "powerful" in the Greek is (energés) and means (at work, active). You see the word "energes" as it so closely translates into our English word "energy". All work takes energy, and God word is the energy. It is the energy to get work done.

Elk Hunters

Two big game hunters who had traveled to Alaska to bag elk. Well on this trip they shot 6 but when it came time to fly to the valley the pilot of the plane told him he said sorry but my aircraft can only safely carry 4 elk you'll have to leave two behind. Well, the hunters they protested they said well last year we shot 6 elk and the pilot let us load all six on the plane and it was about the same type plane, the same weather, and the same size elk. The pilot thought for a minute and said oh OK load him up. But sure enough the plane was too heavy and on liftoff it crashed into the mountain side; and as these two hunters staggered away from the wreckage one of them asked where are we, to which his friend replied, well it looks to me we're in the same place we crashed last year.

And here's the moral of the story, aren't you tired of doing the same thing the same way at the same time and getting the same results why keep crashing. The problem is not your Lord, the problem is not your Bible, it's not the Holy Spirit who empowers, it is our unwillingness to believe God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. The problem is not taking Him at his Word. The problem is not putting His Word to work for us.

Back to Verse 2

Back in verse 4:2 it says the word they heard did not profit them. Because they did not mix it with faith.

(Hebrews 4:2 NKJV) For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Romans 10:17

We have to hear the Word first in order to know what we are to apply and mix with faith.

(Romans 10:17 NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

How do I know what to apply by faith, by the Word.

Be Diligent

This word Diligent in verse 11 means - spoudazo, spoo-dad'-zo; to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:--do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

It is the same word used in 2 Timothy 2:15. The Old King James Version says to "Study to shy thyself approved:

(2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

God Backs His Word with Himself

How do we know what to apply by faith? It is through the study of the word. And when God gives us His Word, he backs it with Himself. Therefore His word will never return void:

Isaiah 55:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

That is why verse-by-verse study and teaching is so powerful, it is God's Word going forth, and we know that it will not return void in the reader or listener. It is God giving a piece of Himself out every time we touch this precious Word:

(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

God will never give His Word independent of Himself. His Word is manna from heaven to feed our spirit and soul. When we study this Word, give out this Word, we give out to the person or people Jesus Christ Himself – that is powerful. I challenge you to find something more powerful you can do in this life.

This brings me great comfort, because I don't have to stress myself about being dynamic and energetic, rather I can rest in the truths that I give out this Word, verse-by-verse, I am giving out Jesus.

Luke 4

In Luke 4, We read of the wilderness temptation of Jesus. And we know the power, as Jesus would say, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." And what we'll see, as we just do a quick look, at Luke 4 is in it, the wilderness wandering, and then the temptation that Satan would bring. We see Jesus with a peace and a power, and for our topic today, a rest. And what we see there is in our passage today, that the word of God is living, it's alive and powerful. The word there is the word that we use for energy. And we use energy to accomplish things, to get work done. So what I would say to you is, as we saw in Jesus, so for us, the word works for us.

Luke 4:1–13 (NKJV) ¹ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " ⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " ⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' ¹¹ and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " ¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " ¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Christian, don't just read it, put it to work. Let it do what it was designed to do. When we see Jesus in Luke 4, he's hungry after 40 days. And we see the devil come with the three tactics that he always, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Jesus used the word to work for him and defeat the enemy and bring himself into peace, power, and a rest.

- In the first temptation (Luke 4:3-4), we see the devil trying to get Jesus to respond in the flesh. He's hungry now after 40 days. And yet Jesus uses the word. He puts it to work for him, to speak to his own heart about satisfying the flesh over the Lord.
- And secondly (Luke 4:5-8), the lust of the world. As devil will say, I'll give you the whole world if you bow down to me. And he's offering Jesus, "Hey, make a name for yourself. Make a name for you, not God." And so constantly the world calls out to us, "Hey, make a name for yourself, satisfy yourself, take care of yourself." But when we put the word to work for us, we're reminded how this world ain't it, and how fleeting the world is, and hence why we continue to put so much time and effort into our prophecy updates.
- And then lastly (Luke 4:9-12), the pride of life, as the devil takes Jesus up to the pinnacle of the temple and says, "Throw yourself down. He used the word if. But that can be equally translated, since. He's saying, "Since you're God, prove it (tries attacking pride), do something." But Jesus wouldn't. And he rebukes the devil for the third time and the devil flees.

1 John 2:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

What is so fitting there is the devil takes him to the pinnacle of the temple, but not up to Golgotha. The devil knew the location, Genesis 22, where the sacrifice would be made. And see, he would love for Jesus to make claim there at the temple, because then man would've been stuck in the

old covenant the whole time, the powerless old covenant, because we all fail. There's no way in our works that we can keep the law. Jesus had to come to fulfill the law and then give us the power to set us free. But just like then, Jesus being tempted by the devil, so does the devil due to us. He wants us to just get close enough, but never fully enter in. "Hey, get close to the promised land, but don't enter into the promised land. Just keep wilderness wandering." There is no rest, Christian, halfway. Ask the children of Israel, halfway between Egypt delivered from the bondage. And right before the promised land, they were dead center in the middle, but they could never enter into the rest for 40 years, as we read as our example today. And the devil so much, he wants us to get close enough, but never fully entered in. But here we see the word, the promises of it. That can take us from that place of being out of the bondage of Egypt, delivered from the punishment and penalty of sin, but the word wants to take us all the way into the promises of God. And that one of them is the power to overcome sin, not just from the penalty, but the power of it. He doesn't want us living halfway. He wants us living in the full glory and Jesus showed us through the word.

Christian put the word to work for you, to seize all the promises of God, to enter into the promised land, a place of rest, that God is who He says He is, and will do what He says He will do.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Apply the Word in Your Life – Mixed with Faith

THE WORD MIXED WITH FAITH MEANS WE STAND UP, STEP OUT, AND START MOVING.

The word is given and you put it into operation:

- I believe you will never leave me nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5), So I am going to step out into the ministry and serve you no matter how scary it may seem.
- I believe in train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he shall return (Proverbs 22:6), So today I am going to pray for my child believing you will do I work, I praise you in advance for what you will do in his life.
- I believe God will supply all my needs (Philippians 4:19), So I will continue to give to the works of saints trusting you will supply my needs
- I believe all things work together for good (Romans 8:28), So I am going to love my spouse and fight for my marriage and take the past pains and use them to strengthen our marriage.
- I believe God will be with me even to the ends of the world (Acts 1:8), So I am going to go on living and praising and witnessing of You to all that will listen, to the ends of the earth.

Jesus – Rest is Given through His Intercession (4:14-16)

(Hebrews 4:14 NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

(Hebrews 4:15 NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus gives us rest through the ministry of prayer. So here we see two places of power, through His Word, and through prayer. He is making intercession for us. So his ruling over us is based on intercession for us. He is not lording over us, but praying for us, caring for us.

In fact, in chapter 7, it says "He lives" to make intercession for us; and based on everything we have just read, it is easy for me to say and declare, that His whole purpose and desire (even though He is God), is to live for me and see me through this world and into His arms. That is amazing love!

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

(Romans 8:34 NKJV) Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Conclusion

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

- Jesus – Our Promise of Rest (4:1-2)
- Jesus – A Greater Rest than the Sabbath (4:3-6)
- Jesus - A Greater Rest than the Promised Land (4:7-8)
- Jesus – Gives Us Rest from Our Works (4:9-10)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Word (4:11-13)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Intercession (4:14-16)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Passage: Hebrews 4:14-16

Title: Does Prayer Really Matter?

Summary: In our passage today the believer in Christ is called, invited, to come before the Lord and “ask” for help in time of need. I think we have all asked, does prayer really matter, do my prayers really change anything, and the is yes because first and foremost prayer changes us, and then secondly prayer invites God to come into the situation, and move in the situation. Reminder as we have been studying, “belief” is believing God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. Prayer is the starting place of mixing the Word and Faith (Hebrews 4:2).

Hebrews 4:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Outline: Does Prayer Really Matter (Hebrews 4:14-16)

- Prayer is in a Place – The Throne of Grace (4:14)
- Prayer is with a Person – Who has Been Where We are At (4:15)
- Prayer is a Promise – We Will Find Help in Our Time of Need (4:16)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer is in a Place – The Throne of Grace (4:14)

(Hebrews 4:14 NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Having come to the end of his warning which began in 3:7, the inspired writer applied its challenge to the theme of the superiority of Jesus the Son as it is displayed in His high-priestly ministry. He is not an ordinary, run-of-the-mill high priest. He is “great” because He is the Son, exalted and sitting at the Father’s right hand until He returns victorious over all of His enemies to establish His eternal rest.

Here there is a foreshadowing of an argument that will be stated explicitly later on (9:11, 24; 10:20): Jesus did not pass through the cloth veil of the temple into a sanctuary built by men; indeed, He has entered into God’s heavenly sanctuary and is seated there until His return. In light of these facts, Christians must hold on to their profession of faith in Him unto the very end in spite of all the trials that surround them. He is Jesus—our Deliverer.

One of the central components of Jewish religion was its system of priests and Levites. Of the 12 tribes, an entire tribe was devoted to attend to the nation’s relationship with God. The tribe of Levi’s sole occupation was to intercede for the people with God. And this gave the Hebrews confidence. When they sinned, they had a contact who would go to bat for them. And of all the

priests, the one with the most clout was the High Priest. Once a year he entered the holiest room in the Temple to pay off the nation's sin.

Yet as believers in Jesus these Hebrews had turned their back on the priesthood. To the shock of parents and friends they'd thrown away this confidence. They were being asked, "If you no longer reverence the priesthood how do you expect to gain access to God?" Well, according to verse 14 the Hebrews still had a priest - and not a High Priest, but "a great High Priest." Jesus entered, not just the earthly Temple, but Heaven itself. These Hebrews had not lost their confidence at all. They'd gained a greater confidence!

These believers being drawn back into Judaism, religion, and not taking advantage of "the greatness" that has been afforded them. They want to go back to a prayer meeting, prayer avenue, that is here on earth rather than the prayer meeting that is in heaven, by He who lives to intercede for us. **I think we as believers can make the same mistake as we bring prayer down into earth, and don't realize/forget, that prayer is a place, it is at the THRONE ROOM OF GOD, and we are invited in to find help in time of need.** Considering that prayer is at the throne of God, surely we can know that prayer matters because the location of where prayer happens. Do you want power in your prayer life, it is dependent on attitude that it matters, and the attitude will be affected by the altitude (how high we go when we enter into prayer) – WOW I am invited into the throne room of God....

Hebrews 7:23–25 (NKJV) ²³ Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. ²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Prayer is with a Person – Who has Been Where We are At (4:15)

(Hebrews 4:15 NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

The reason Christians must cling to their profession of Jesus as their Messiah and God is given here. He is one with us. He became a man and is, therefore, able to understand human frailties and weaknesses. The word "infirmities" (astheneiais) includes both moral and physical weaknesses. The verb used (sumpathēsai) indicates that Jesus is able to empathize with believers because He has experienced the limitations and feelings that are common to all humans.

Furthermore, although He never succumbed to any temptation and never sinned, He was subjected to the full gamut of temptations to evil. This means that He was tested and tried but that He never committed a sin or was enticed by evil in His mind to the extent that He approved of it. He understands the power of temptation, and He also knows the stratagems by which it is successfully resisted.

For years entertainer Bob Hope led trips to Vietnam to humor the troops. Once, reminiscing on his USO shows he made the statement, "All I ever saw was those kids laughing and applauding. I never knew what they were going through until I saw a couple of movies like 'Platoon' and 'Hamburger Hill'! What courage they had - and fighting a war we wouldn't let them win."

Unlike Hope's visits to Vietnam, when Jesus visited earth He didn't just stay on stage and entertain. He invaded the jungle - got into the trenches. He was subjected to the Napalm and sniper fire. He fought the battle as one of the troops, and prevailed - without sin.

Here we're told, Jesus was tempted "in all points" as we are. Jesus was a man (human), and vulnerable to the temptations of all men. Yet He never caved in! He was tempted with everything Satan has ever thrown at you or me, yet He never succumbed. He was born sinless, and stayed sinless, and as a result He is perfectly suited to help us win our struggle for purity.

I've met people who question Jesus's empathy. If the Son of God never sinned, how can He truly understand what I face...the lure of darkness, and the pull of sin? C.S. Lewis answers this question, "Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. You find out the strength of an army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives into temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later... We never find out the strength of an evil impulse... until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full (extent) what temptation means."

Jesus knows a lot more than we think.

The fact Jesus didn't break enabled Him to endure all Satan could muster. We whimper and quibble, "nobody knows what I'm going through..." Oh, yes they do! Consider Jesus! Your temptation is kid's stuff compared to what our Lord endured. He knows your struggle and how you can win the victory.

And here is a missed point of prayer, and we can so easily miss it. Jesus knew how to have victory over sin and temptation.

The prayer Jesus taught the disciples (short only some 66 words – so we see prayer doesn't have to be endless words, just precise strikes with the word).

Matthew 6:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

But point to be made, "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil". Jesus can do that because He has been there, maybe better said been here, and He overcame and was victorious, and can show us how to be victorious too.

We can read the Bible, but we should be praying the Bible as well. Last week's study we discussed on how to have rest, enter into rest, through Jesus. We studied putting the "Word to Work" for ourselves.

Hebrews 4:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

People say how cool it would be to handle serpents, to which I say yes, and the serpent I want to trample on are the serpents that are trying bite me and diminish me from being all that the Lord desires me to be. I want to take the Word of God, and say based on You have been here and been victorious, then so too will I, and I will do it through you in this Word mixed with faith, in/at the throne room of prayer.

Mark 16:15–18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

We need to take the Word of God, and let it examine us, cut us like a knife when and where need be, so it can do Holy surgery on us. As I pray for a victory to overcome whatever it may be that is tempting me to sin (anger, lust, selfishness, unloving, drunkardness, and the likes).

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Word of God is not legalism but revelation, it reveals to me what needs to be cutdown, cutout, removed from my life.

Which let me make this point, even though we are talking about prayer, there is a great doctrinal statement being made here in this verse 15, Jesus can sympathize, and He can deliver. Verse 21 of Galatians is very clear, those who practice such things (habitually and unrepentant) will not inherit the kingdom of God. We will be covering in this Book the great debate of once saved always saved, and people living in unrepentant sin say once saved always saved, to which our two verses discussing here before us says..... your not, you are not saved and you need to repent of your sin and call upon Jesus to save you from your sin.

But back to deliverance from sin, overcoming temptation, the Word mixed with faith, believing it after seeing it (revelation), and saying I see it Lord, not deliver me from it. I believe You are who You say You are, and can do what You say You will do; that is FAITH!

I love Psalm 107 speaking of the word, it says that it heals..... after man rebelled against it.

*Psalm 107:10–11 (NKJV)*¹⁰ *Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons—¹¹ Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High,*

*Psalm 107:19–21 (NKJV)*¹⁹ *Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.²⁰ He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.²¹ Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!*

I know it is hard, but He has been there, He can sympathize, therefore He can counsel us, and He can coach us, and He can say.... I know it is hard, but victory is sweet, and victory can be had.

One of the roles of the High Priest was to offer sacrifices, and Jesus we will discuss more in later chapters was both the priest and the sacrifice (there upon the cross).

But we can be living sacrifices that please the Lord.

*Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)*¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

And when we offer ourselves, that is when the spiritual breaks forth and pours out.

*Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)*²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Considering that prayer is at the throne of God, surely we can know that prayer matters because the location of where prayer happens. Do you want power in your prayer life, it is dependent on attitude that it matters, and the attitude will be affected by the altitude (how high we go when we enter into prayer) – WOW I am invited into the throne room of God.... And, by Him who understands all that I/we go through, because He has been here, He has been there.

Prayer is a Promise – We Will Find Help in Our Time of Need (4:16)

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Because the Son knows the power of sin and the means of success over temptation, believers can come to Him in prayer with confidence in His wisdom and ability to help when they are confronted with temptation. The readers of this epistle were facing the temptation to abandon their profession of faith in the face of ridicule and persecution. Most assuredly, the Son, who was abandoned by His disciples and forsaken by the Father while on the cross, understands the needs of those who are tempted to forsake Him in the hour of trial.

The word “boldly” (parrhēsiās) conveys a sense of openness, freedom, and confidence. When Christians come to God in prayer through the Son, they receive not justice, but God’s grace and mercy. This is available because of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. The help that is available through such prayers is timely (eukairon), that is, it exactly fits the need at the right moment.

Who do we come to? We have been building up to this for nearly four chapters, so let's go back to where we began.

Hebrews 1:1–4 (NKJV)¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Listed here in these two verses are 7 Characteristics of Jesus Christ:

- He is Heir of all things: v2
- He is the Creator of all things: v2
- He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3
- He is the Expressed Image of God: v3
- He Holds all things together with His word: v3
- He is the Purifier of our sins: v3
- He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3

Which reminds me of the mighty passage and promise of Isaiah 9:6.

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Listed here in these two verses are 7 Characteristics of Jesus Christ:

- He is Heir of all things: v2
Everlasting Father (Jesus is the Father and all things are His)
- He is the Creator of all things: v2
Mighty God (it took a Mighty God to create all things)
- He is the Brightness of His Glory: v3
Wonderful (wonderful means full of wonder - God of Wonders)
- He is the Expressed Image of God: v3
Child is Born (Jesus expresses the heart of God - approachable)
- He Holds all things together with His word: v3
Counselor (His Word counsels us where to buy/sell - holds us together)
- He is the Purifier of our sins: v3
Son is Given (behold the Lamb of God who takes away sin of world)
- He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high: v3
Government upon His Shoulders (His shoulders bears our burden)

To which verse 6 of Isaiah says He is the “Prince of Peace”, and that has been our theme of what unbelief brings, no peace and no rest, but the Word mixed with faith, brings rest (peace).

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hebrews 4:1–2 (NKJV)¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

And He says to us to come, boldly come, and invitation to His great provision!

Isaiah 55:1–3 (NKJV)¹ “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ² Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. ³ Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.

Prayer of Jabez

I am reminded of the prayer of Jabez, in 1 Chronicles 4:10. It is a short prayer, only like 32 words, and most of those words are small/short words themselves. Yet we are told that “God granted him what he requested”.

*1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)*¹⁰ *And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.*

Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel... 1 Chronicles 4:10 (a)

The secret of Jabez’s success wasn’t due to a seminar he attended or to a book he purchased. Jabez’s success was due to the fact that he was a man of prayer. James says we have not because we ask not (4:2). It’s that simple. The Lord is continually asking His people to ask. “Call unto Me,” He says in Jeremiah 31, “and I will show you great and mighty things which you know not.” “Ask, seek, and knock that you might receive and the door might be opened unto you,” Jesus said (see Matthew 7:7).

*James 4:2 (NKJV)*² *You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

*Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)*³ *‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’*

*Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)*⁷ *‘Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

How is your prayer life? Are you experiencing success and prosperity? The pathway to prosperity is prayer. Pray. And pray more. And pray still more.

Prayer is vital. We know that. But here’s the problem: Because we know it, we think we’re doing it. If the stopwatch was on this past week, how much time would it show that you’ve actually spent in prayer? God loves you no matter whether you’re praying or not. But the blessings He is waiting to pour out upon you, your ministry, your marriage, your family and your friends can only be released through prayer

Jabez overcame his adversity by calling upon the God of Israel. In other words, he prayed. Prayer is not a subject that draws a lot of attention or creates a lot of excitement. People think the answer to their problems lies in a practice or a program they’ve never heard of before. But the life of this one who was named “Sorrowful”—this one who had a family that looked up to him and a city named after him—is recorded in the Word because he prayed simply and effectively.

Let’s look at his prayer, simple, yet powerful we know, because God granted his requests,

Passion

... “Oh, that thou wouldest bless me indeed...” 1 Chronicles 4:10 (b)

The word, “oh,” gives us a clue as to the passion of Jabez’s prayer. It was said of George Whitefield, the great evangelist, that when he simply said the word, “oh,” hundreds of people would repent on the spot because he spoke with such passion. I sense something of this in Jabez’s prayer.

Paul says the Spirit prays through us with groanings that cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26). Sometimes the most effective prayer times we have consist of groaning. You’re praying for your own situation or for that of someone else and you don’t know how to pray, so you let the Spirit groan through you. That’s prayer. In this, I sense a passion in Jabez’s prayer that moved the hand of God.

Purpose

... and enlarge my coast... 1 Chronicles 4:10 (c)

"Enlarge my coasts or borders," Jabez prayed. "Make me bigger and larger than I am presently." It is important that, as believers, we are expanding. Are your borders being expanded?

William Carey, the great missionary, said, "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God." Do something radical. Take a risk in life. Take a risk in your ministry. Take a risk in your understanding of worship and devotion. Enlarge your vision. Attempt something for the Lord so big that, unless God is in it, it's doomed to fail. Such was the heart of Jabez.

Presence

... and that thine hand might be with me... 1 Chronicles 4:10 (d)

Jabez didn't just want the gifts. He wanted the Giver to be with him. This is something we need to see because so often we can say, "Lord, I need this answer to prayer." And when the answer comes, we run away.

Not Jabez. He said, "Keep Your hand upon me. I want You to be with me, directing my steps, guiding my actions." And that's a prayer the Father honors.

Protection

... and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!" 1 Chronicles 4:10 (e)

At this point in his life, Jabez understood that sin always brings sadness. Even in the age of inflation, the wages of sin remain the same: death (Romans 6:23). Realizing this, Jabez said, "Keep me from sin lest it grieve me and bring sorrow into my life."

As we read in verse 10, God granted Jabez his request. Jabez was blessed, or enlarged. He experienced both the presence and the protection of God.

If we truly believed that the prayer of Jabez had practical application to our situation, we would be people of prayer. But we don't really believe it. Oh, we believe in God's ability to bless us. But we doubt His willingness to do so. Most of us have an entirely wrong understanding of the nature of our Father. We know He's wealthy, but we think He's stingy.

There are three types of wealthy people.

1. The first is the one who will give money if your presentation for cancer research is good enough.
2. The second type is one who is happy to give regardless of the cause.
3. But the third type doesn't wait for the knock on the door. Instead, he walks around, looking for opportunities to give.

Most of us believe our Father is in the first category, that God is wealthy, but that we have to plead and beg to persuade Him that our cause is worthy of His blessing. Some might even think He's eager to give to us regardless of the worth of our request. But, in reality, our Father is neither of these types. He is the third type, going to and fro throughout the whole world, looking for a man in whom He can show Himself strong (2 Chronicles 16:9). God is looking for Jabez who have problems, who have difficulty, but who call out to Him.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV) ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

Jabez's prayer wasn't long. But he did what you and I need to do. He called upon the God of Israel. In brokenness and openness, he poured out his heart and said, "Lord, bless me." And the

Lord granted him his request. Precious people, spend time with your Father in the posture of prayer, and you'll be on the pathway to prosperity. I guarantee it because the Word declares it.

Outline: Does Prayer Really Matter (Hebrews 4:14-16)

- Prayer is in a Place – The Throne of Grace (4:14)
- Prayer is with a Person – Who has Been Where We are At (4:15)
- Prayer is a Promise – We Will Find Help in Our Time of Need (4:16)

Considering that prayer is at the throne of God, surely we can know that prayer matters because the location of where prayer happens. Do you want power in your prayer life, it is dependent on attitude that it matters, and the attitude will be affected by the altitude (how high we go when we enter into prayer) – WOW I am invited into the throne room of God.... And, by Him who understands all that I/we go through, because He has been here, He has been there. And, by Him who promises to help us in our time of need. So yes, prayer matters!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews Chapter 5

Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest

Passage: Hebrews 5:1-10

Title: Jesus Our Great High Priest (Easter Message 2022)

Summary: A component of all religions is the “priest.” He’s the “go-between” - an intermediary between God and man. We may not readily relate a priest to Easter, but in our passage today we will see that Easter needed a priest, and our passage tells us that Jesus was “The Great High Priest” who could bring us into the presence of the Holy God, fully accepted and received before the Father through His finished sacrifice there upon the cross. Join us as we study and celebrate this Easter, Jesus the Great High Priest, who is the go-between, between Man and God.

Hebrews 5:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. ³ Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. ⁴ And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” ⁶ As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; ⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

The High Priest Spoken of in the Book of Hebrews

The overall theme and message of the Book of Hebrews is the “Superiority of Jesus” over all the religious systems. An often-missed theme and point that is made throughout the Book is that Jesus is our Great High Priest. When we step back and look at the Book from the 30,000-foot level, we see a direct referencing to Jesus being the High Priest in every chapter from chapters 2-10. A priest is a go-between, between man and God.

*Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)*¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

*Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV)*¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

*Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

*Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)*¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

*Hebrews 5:5 (NKJV)*⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”

*Hebrews 5:10 (NKJV)*¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

*Hebrews 6:20 (NKJV)*²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Hebrews 7:1 (NKJV)*¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

*Hebrews 7:26 (NKJV)*²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

*Hebrews 8:1 (NKJV)*¹ Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

*Hebrews 9:11 (NKJV)*¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Hebrews 10:21 (NKJV)²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God,

A priest is a go-between, between man and God. I was talking to someone this week and they asked what my Easter passage was, and I told them this passage, and the focused topic of the High Priest, to which the response was (and I am gladly they asked) why that passage and topic for an Easter message? Well the answer is, for every Feast and Holiday in Israel the priests and sacrifices were involved, and the High Priest had the ultimate responsibility over the priesthood and the Temple that they were performed and displayed exactly as God prescribed them to be. The two very specific Holidays (called Feasts) are Passover and the Day of Atonement.

Did you know word “Easter” is only found in one verse (Acts 12:4) of only one of the most common translations (KJV). The places where the word Easter would be applicable (1 Cor 5:7, Hebrews 11:28), uses the word “Passover” (GK: pascha). Rightly so, as because of Jesus’ sacrifice upon the cross, trading places with us, taking our sin and the punishment due for breaking God’s Holy Law..... death passed-over us, and we are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Acts 12:4 (KJV 1900)⁴ And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Acts 12:4 (NKJV)⁴ So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

New creations, old things passed away, all things made new – Oh Praise the Lord for Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

But, back to our special Easter (should I say – Passover) celebration, the sacrifice had to be performed and displayed exactly as God prescribed it to be so, and the responsibility that it was done according, was the ultimate responsibility of the High Priest, and hence we see why Jesus our Great High Priest, is an ever-fitting Easter message.

Outline: Jesus Our Great High Priest (For Every Holiday, and on Every Day)

- The High Priest had to be Properly Trained to Offer Gifts and Sacrifices (5:1).
- The High Priest had to have Compassion for the People He Ministered To (5:2-3).
- The High Priest was Appointed by God Specifically (5:4-6).
- The High Priest had to be Obedient to the Will God (5:7-8).
- The High Priest was the Record Keeper for God (5:9-10)

We have many more great studies in the Book of Hebrews regarding Jesus being our Great High Priest, so for today may this passage draw our hearts to Him in a special intimate way, as we give thanks this Easter (2022), and these verses draw to Him and the celebration of Easter, and prepare our hearts for a special time of Communion with our Lord.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The High Priest had to be Properly Trained to Offer Gifts and Sacrifices (5:1).

(Hebrews 5:1 NKJV) For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

The High Priest was appointed, and he was trained accordingly, for all the sacrifices and offerings had to be in accordance with God's prescribed way.

What was the offense, would determine the sacrifice that was to be provided.

10 Commandments

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3).
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6).
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7)
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...(Exodus 20:8-11)
- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)
- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17)

To which we here are all guilty,

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

James 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

These were the handwritings of guilt written against us, and the High Priest would ensure all the priests performing the sacrifices and all the sacrifices were exactly as prescribed by God for the covering of those sins. The Passover sacrifice, was a lamb, the final Passover sacrifice was a Lamb (capital L), Jesus Himself.

Exodus 12:3-5 (NKJV) ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

And we see such a heart of God as we look at the word "offer" here in verse 1:

Offer: to bring to, lead to a person who can heal him or is ready to show him some kindness,

Oh the kindness of God, of the go-between (Holy God and Sinful Man), I give thanks for our Great High Priest that turns this day into a celebration! Who can lead me before the Father, to a loving God, who not only shows me kindness, but heals my heart, breaths His sweet love and grace upon me.

The High Priest had to have Compassion for the People He Ministered To (5:2-3).

(Hebrews 5:2 NKJV) He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

(Hebrews 5:3 NKJV) Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

The High Priest was to have compassion and understanding for the weakness and failings of man, so he could minister with a heart, the heart of God, for the people.

Once again a word that unlocks the heart of God, Jesus our High Priest who became man so He may sympathize and relate to us; the word is “compassion” and it means:

Compassion: one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.

The High Priest was Appointed by God Specifically (5:4-6).

(Hebrews 5:4 NKJV) And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

(Hebrews 5:5 NKJV) So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him:

*"You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You."*

(Hebrews 5:6 NKJV) As He also says in another place:

*"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek";*

The High Priest was appointed by God specifically. For the priesthood of Israel it was through the line of Aaron; but for Jesus we see His was superior and greater than that lineage as it was through the order of Melchizedek which we will be studying more of in the weeks to come as this is a reference back to Genesis 14.

But as we are seeing the offerings could be just be any way, it had order, the sacrifice had to be specific to the sin, and the High Priest could not just from any lineage of choice, but specific to the order prescribed by God.

For us today, the receivers of so great a salvation, the appointed, was appointed with power. The word back there in verse 2 for “He can”, is the word for power (GK: dunamai).

He Can: to be able to do something, to be capable, strong and powerful.

God gives the High Priest He appoints, chooses, to have the power to bear the burden of the priesthood, so that He can:

Offer: to bring to, lead to a person who can heal him or is ready to show him some kindness,

Compassion: one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.

The High Priest had to be Obedient to the Will God (5:7-8).

(Hebrews 5:7 NKJV) who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

(Hebrews 5:8 NKJV) though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

The High Priest was called to be obedient to the will of God, and the Word of God. He was to be unwavering, unmoved, unchanging as the High Priest was in accordance to the will and the way and the word of God.

And we see Jesus have the ultimate fulfillment in the garden on the night of the crucifixion: *Luke 22:41–44 (NKJV)* ⁴¹ *And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,* ⁴² *saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."* ⁴³ *Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.* ⁴⁴ *And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Before those words in the garden, there were words at the table that expounded His great desire – With Fervently Desire – His obedience was fueled by passion! Passion to do the will of the Father, and Passion for us, to be His! Beloved you are treasured
Luke 22:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*

So:

The Power - He Can: to be able to do something, to be capable, strong and powerful.

The Compassion - one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.

To Offer - to bring to, lead to a person who can heal him or is ready to show him some kindness,

The High Priest was the Record Keeper for God (5:9-10)

(Hebrews 5:9 NKJV) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,
(Hebrews 5:10 NKJV) called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

Jesus the author (writer) of eternal salvation, our Great High Priest.

In the Talmud (a collection of Jewish text that record the Jewish history – specifically regarding Judaism), records that the High Priest was responsible for accurate keeping of records (administration) of what went on in the Temple during his appointment. And here is what is recorded for us, the account of our sin has been wiped out (Col 2:14), because Jesus said His final words on the cross "It is Done", which was an accounting term that meant "paid in full", and He records that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev 20:15).

Colossians 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Revelation 20:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

One of the hidden messages, that we find when we seek Him, is that there were those in Israel who were looking forward to the death of the High Priest, what you may say? Yes, for ancient Israel, cities of refuge were critically linked to God's command not to defile the land, which was His dwelling place (Num 35:33–34). Any bloodshed—even unintentional—polluted the land. The only provisions for keeping the land pure after a person was killed were the judicial execution of a willful murderer (Num 35:30–2) or the removal of the unintentional killer to a city of refuge (Num 35:25, 28). Numbers 35 provides the most detailed description of the cities of refuge—their establishment, form, operation, and purpose. When a person was killed accidentally, the victim's family members could legitimately avenge this shedding of innocent blood (Num 35:19). However, the killer could flee to a city of refuge, and the family members were forbidden from exacting vengeance when the killer was within the boundaries of one of those cities (Num 35:26). The only time the killer could safely leave the city of refuge was upon the death of the high priest

(Num 35:28). At that point, the killer could return to his hometown, and the avenger could no longer legitimately take his life.

Numbers 35:26–28 (NKJV) ²⁶ But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled, ²⁷ and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood, ²⁸ because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

What a picture and foreshadow of Jesus and the death of our Great High Priest, setting us free.

Outline: Jesus Our Great High Priest (For Every Holiday, and on Every Day)

- The High Priest had to be Properly Trained to Offer Gifts and Sacrifices (5:1).
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- The High Priest was the Record Keeper for God (5:9-10)

As we enter into communion, I would like to celebrate one more beautiful word of promise in our passage, and that is back in verse 1, that says both gifts and sacrifices for sin:

Hebrews 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

We know what sacrifices for sin means, but what are gifts for sin? The word gifts means:

Gift: for mutual celebration of an occasion

So the celebration we celebrate today is not just our celebration, but His too, as He celebrates you, that you are His (Is 43:1), and that it was a joy for Him to go to the cross to have you (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ 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, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 43:1 (NKJV) ¹ But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), but the gift of God is eternal life:

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have come here today for a special, mutual celebration, of new life, eternal life, we have been set free, we have been delivered from sin and death, and we have been made new..... all because of Great High Priest, who made sure the price for sin was paid in full..... so we can be His!

And what is the proof, the Resurrection..... if Jesus the Great High Priest had failed in any of these points, He did not prepare (be the perfect sacrifice), a sacrifice that met the prescription for the punishment,

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Luke 24:1–12 (NKJV) ¹ Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " ⁸ And they remembered His words. ⁹ Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, *Mary the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Last words and first words are so telling; His last words before His last breath (It is Finished", and His first words of the resurrection recorded for us "woman why do you weep, whom do you seek". His first words Were not doctrinal north, the logical, but they were personal. So he would say To Mary Woman, why do you weep As he speaks the intimate message I am alive. I've overcome the world. I'm no longer in the grave. And now for you, for me, the words are from here..... Everything Changes, because we have a risen Savior Who lives for us, A high priest that lives to make intercession for us. This is amazing resurrection grace and life!

John 20:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "**Mary!**" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Passage: Hebrews 5:11-14

Title: God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing

Summary: In our passage today, the Lord gives a warning to a people who were once on-fire for Him and His Word, but now have become dull of hearing. The Holy Spirit had to tell these people, who no doubt thought they were doing great, "hey you are not doing as great as you think, in fact you are dull of hearing". Here is the great consideration for every one of us.....could we be dull of hearing of God's Word, and not even realize it? Today's passage gives us a spiritual health check, and if need be, a prescription and health plan on how to be well and stay strong.

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing Jesus (Hebrews 5:11-14)

- God has Much to Say to You (5:11)
- What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)
- God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

To stay in the context of what is being said here in this warning, lets do a short recap of chapters 4&5

Recap What We Have Studied (Chapters 4&5):

- They Could Not Enter into His Rest, Because they Did Not Mix the Word with Faith (Hebrews 4:2)
- God's Word Reveals the Condition of Man's Heart (Hebrews 4:11-13)
- God's Throne of Grace is the Place to Do Something About Our Heart Condition (Hebrews 4:14-16)
- At the Throne of Grace God Awaits Us (Hebrews 5:1-10)
- Warning – Don't' Become Dull of Hearing (Hebrews 5:11-14)

They Could Not Enter into His Rest, Because they Did Not Mix the Word with Faith (Hebrews 4:2)

Hebrews 4:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

As we have studied they (Israel when they came to face the giants in the Promised and feared them because they felt they were too strong for them – even though God promised to give them the Promised Land) did not enter into the rest of God, because although they heard the Word of

God, they did not step out in faith believing the Word of God – that God is who He says He is, and will do what He says He will do!

Resting in the Lord, is mixing the Word with faith.

God's Word Reveals the Condition of Man's Heart (Hebrews 4:11-13)

Hebrews 4:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

The Word of God will expose all that you are; the Word will leave you naked. Clothing hides all our faults don't they? They cover the cellulite, the scars, the sagging skin and muscles. But take the clothes off and it is all exposed. The Word of God is like that; we look so good to the world's standards, to man's philosophy and wisdom, but when we look at ourselves in the Light of the God's Word, we see our imperfections, we see how far we fall short of His standard. His Word exposes us for all we are - Sinners. His word leaves us very vulnerable, in a very helpless place - for a wise man, it brings us to the place of we need a Savior, and we got One, our great High Priest - Jesus Christ.

Why like a sword, why piercing, because sometimes it hurts, sometimes it is like surgery; but without surgery the cancer grows and there is no healing. I would never go in for a x-ray and try to hide or cover the infected area so the x-ray couldn't see it, no I wouldn't because I need it exposed so I can get a true diagnosis. The Word of God exposes us and shows us we need a High Priest, we need a Savior. That is why the study of the Word is so important, we need the correct diagnosis of our condition.

God's Throne of Grace is the Place to Do Something About Our Heart Condition (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Our High Priest just didn't pass into the Holy of Holies and made a sacrifice, He passed through it, into the Heavens - the ultimate Holy of Holies, the final Holy place. His resurrection and entrance into heaven proves that God accepted His sacrifice, Himself. And since the perfect sacrifice has been offered, the works of the High Priest are complete. He is seated, and no more is there needs for sacrifices. As we have mentioned, there was no seat in the Temple because the works of the priest were never done, but Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father for the work is done, and we can rest in that.

In verse 14, they are told to “hold fast to their confession”, we see that the temptations were drawing them away from the Lord. The author says don't let it go, run to Him, not from Him.

Verse 15 - Jesus isn't a High Priest who is insensitive to us; He is a High Priest who can relate to everything we go through. Our desires, doubts, bitterness, anger, as all of these came against him, but none could move Him. There is no fooling God, everything is naked and open, there is nothing hid. He knows what is going on inside of us. Because of this we should cling to our High Priest because He understands us, He walked where we walked. He says I know all you are, and I still love, there is no reason to run or hide from me – I love you.

At the Throne of Grace God Awaits Us (Hebrews 5:1-10)

Hebrews 5:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. ³ Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. ⁴ And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have

begotten You.”⁶ As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”;⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

Offer – means to give continually. Here we see that the High Priest of Israel could sympathize with the people because he was a sinner just like them. He would have to make an offering for his sin. The contrast we have just read is that Jesus was sinless, though He could sympathize with us because he walked in our place. Jesus never had to make a sacrifice for Himself because He was sinless.

There was a calling by God to be the High Priest. Aaron's line was called by God to be the High Priest.

We will talk more about Melchizedek in chapter 7. But it is interesting, Melchizedek is only mentioned twice in the Scriptures, but the author expected us to understand about him.

What the author is saying is that there is an order of priesthood greater than Aaron's line, which came through the line of Levi. Jesus was through the line of Judah. Melchizedek came before Levi, and is a priest forever.

(Hebrews 5:9 NKJV) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, - Here we see perfect and eternal woven together. The Theme of this book, the words perfect, eternal and better used throughout, When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

See where the author is taking us. He talked of bringing us into a rest, not of works, but through the final High Priest. We needed this High Priest forever if we are to be perfected. The Word of God will expose us all the way down to the intents of the heart.

Warning – Don't' Become Dull of Hearing (Hebrews 5:11-14)

Hebrews 5:11–14 (NKJV)¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

All these wonderful things, yet these Hebrew believers were falling away, missing out on the rest, not mixing the Word with Faith. The author says to them and us, seize these promises!, seize these blessings, enter into the rest your High Priest has prepared for you.

Oh to hear God's warnings. Peter thought he had it all together, was so sure that he was right on target, and yet even after God gave him a warning, he still missed it. God loves us enough to warn us, and here is the third of six in this Book of Hebrews.

Luke 22:31–34 (NKJV)³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”³³ But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.”³⁴ Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

6 Warnings:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6

- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing Jesus (Hebrews 5:11-14)

- God has Much to Say to You (5:11)
- What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)
- God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

God has Much to Say to You (5:11)

(Hebrews 5:11 NKJV) of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

The word here for "dull" is a word that means unsharp (which is counter to sharp) – which the Word of God is "sharper than a two-edge sword". The have become dull in the word.
Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word for dull also meant sluggish. That is a good description of once being fit and sharp to becoming dull and sluggish

Many of them had their initial conversion but were not maturing. The author said we have much more to tell you about Melchizedek and the things of God, but they weren't mature enough to understand them.

God had much to say to them, as He does us, He has some much that He wants to reveal to us, about Himself, our ourselves, about the world around us and the people in it. He has so much to say, and I pray we never stop seeking "more" of Him, and His Word, His Heart, and His Presence in our lives.

The Word is Living – and He would fill all the libraries in world speaking of all He did, just in His short time on earth. Imagine as He wants to speak to us about the before the foundations of the world, and the eternal life after this life, and more so, about His love for us;
Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 21:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)

(Hebrews 5:12 NKJV) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

(Hebrews 5:13 NKJV) For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

Although there is an indictment of not progressing, and hence our warning, let be noted that as the commercial says, "Milk – It does the Body Good". There is goodness in the milk of the Word.
1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

God's Word, is meant to take us from strength-to-strength (Psalm 84:7). It is why He puts His Word even above His name, though at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, and tongue will profess. And speaking of Psalm 84, remember our past study where God promises that "no good thing will He withhold from us".

Psalm 84:7 (NKJV) ⁷ They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

Psalm 138:2 (NKJV) ² I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Philippians 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 84:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV) ³¹ *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

But, even with all these things we have looked at, there is a danger for each and everyone of us to become “dull of hearing”.

God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

(Hebrews 5:14 NKJV) **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Key word in verse 14, “exercised”. The word in the Greek is (gymnazo), it is where we get our word “gymnasium”.

Remember, the word for dull (verse 11) also meant sluggish. That is a good description of once being fit and sharp to becoming dull and sluggish.

We have a calling here, the escape-protection-prescription to the warning, and that is to “hit the gym”, the Lord's Gym!

It's time to hit the waits (you mean weights right?), no I mean “wait”.

It seems like our prescription to ourselves or to others is always, "Read more of the word. Spend more time in the word. Pray more. Pray throughout the day." And all these things are good, but I think the greatest missing prescription is to wait. Simply be still. Psalm 46:10, "And know that he is God."

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

Psalm 37. "Rest in the Lord. Wait patiently upon him is the exercise of silence and just waiting upon the Lord to have this communion with him. This oneness, this fellowship with him.

Psalm 37:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*

Psalm 27:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

Waiting upon God requires our entire being. It's not drifting into daydreaming, but it's an exercise that demands our greatest and deepest attention, our most alert frame of mind, and all of our beings. Sole attention on God, his voice, and our heart of open to him. This is not eastern mysticism. It's not transcendental meditation. It's not emptying our mind. As people will say in those meditations, it's connecting our whole being to the Lord, and it is surely one of the hardest things for us to do.

James 4:8 tells us to not be double minded. And that word means to have divided interest, in how easy it is to not be drawing to God and focusing on him when our minds or completely divided interest. Thinking on him, but thinking on 10 other things at the same time. That verse begins with, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." The Lord's always waiting for us to draw near. He waits, amazingly, the creator of the universe waits for us, but the call is for us to draw

near to him. To wait upon him in this undivided attention of our hearts. Our whole being is the entering into deep spiritual connection with the Lord. It is connecting spirit to the spirit.

*James 4:8 (NKJV)*⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Waiting on the Lord is a time where I literally just sit, say, "Lord, draw near to me. Draw me close to you. Lord, that world may fall away, all my cares and everything I'm anxious about. I just sit with you. This is a place where I profess to you I trust you. I trust that you're going to show up. I trust that you're going to speak to me. I trust that you're going to take your word, and do what you say you'll do because you are who you say that you are. And I'm not moving on to anything else in my prayer time until I'm sure that me and you are connected. This beautiful chord that ties us together."

I most always start my prayer time with praise, before I enter into waiting. And the reason is, I want to make sure that I'm focusing on who I'm focusing on. And I might just start with praise, or Bible verse, or just attributes of God. Just As Jesus taught us to pray. "Our father, who art in Heaven." Jesus would start with the address and the location, and as we studied, prayer is spiritual. It's outside of this world. It's beyond the veil of the world. It's into the heavenly, and it's with the person, the person of Jesus Christ, who sympathizes and has compassion on us. And then it's an invitation of intimacy with him, and an invitation for him to do the work.

And I don't know if it's easy to separate praise and waiting. Sometimes they just end up flowing together. I don't even want to say that I praise, then I stop and say, "Now it's time to wait." I just know after years of praying, they just kind of flow together. That I know from a disciplined heart and walk with the Lord, that I need a time of just quiet before or the Lord, because it's so like me, and I'm sure like you, that I need to rush into productivity. Read my three chapters, pray my prayer list for my family and ministry. Enter into personal petition before the Lord for myself and my needs. And all those things, as good as they are, just turn into to dos and checklists when I can praise him and know him before, and then just wait upon him and know that I'm connected and tied to him. The rest of my prayer life is pure power, because I know who he is, I know that I am his, and I know that whatever I ask in his name, according to his will, he shall do. And he'll withhold no good thing from me, and he'll work all things together for good, even if there are hard times.

The whole point of prayer is to get God. That's the whole point. Because when we get God, we have it all.

Psalms 46:10 says, "Be still." And equally as important, and know God. Knowing someone intimately is impossible with limited attention, intimacy takes time and concentration. This is why these early moments of prayer need a careful silencing of the mind with all thoughts directed towards the person of God alone.

*Psalms 46:10 (NKJV)*¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

When Jesus prays or taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name," you can sense a connecting, a stillness to the hallowed one, the holy one, the uncommon one. Before He enters into prayer, supplication, requesting, confession, "Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from the evil one," and all those things, there is a place of the hallowedness. Waiting is coming and know that you are standing on holy ground.

*Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)*⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

So often we make prayer this drive-through thing. This hit-it-and-move-on thing. And as Moses came before the Lord, before He spoke, the Lord said, "Take off thy shoes for you are standing on holy ground." And the beauty of the invitation, we're being invited to holy ground, hallowed ground, where God speaks, connects in intimacy with man, because Jesus has provided the way

that we can boldly, with confidence, come before the throne of grace and find mercy and grace and help in our time of need.

Not only does waiting prepare the prayer warrior for confession and prayer and intercession and petition, but it actually serves to snatch us away from the things of the world. To wait in silence is to bid farewell to earthly conversation and attention. It is the vital bridge that takes us from a carnal world to a spiritual world. The silent surrendering of the soul to God opens the door to the higher plane of His divine love and nature.

When Moses came down from that mount says that his face was shining. He met God face-to-face. Exodus 33:11 says, "And the Lord spake unto Moses face-to-face as a man speaketh unto a friend." Here we see a man who waited decades in the barren wilderness before catching a glimpse of the true glory of God with all the results of his lonely desert sojourn. Moses touched God and God, in turn, touched Moses, and it took time as Moses waited upon the Lord.

[Exodus 33:11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

So prayer starts, "Our father who art in heaven," place a praise of who He is, who we're coming before. Then we move into "Hallowed be His name." It's a place that's indescribable, but when you arrive there, you know you're there. It's so hard for me to describe what I'm trying to say, but you'll know you're there when you get there.

What I can say is I make sure I have time, enough time to wait upon the Lord. I don't squeeze my prayer time that I may have minutes. I set my whole life up for that time of prayer. When I go to bed, when I wake up, the environment that I enter into, a place that everybody knows I'm entering into in the home, and I start with the waiting by saying, "Lord, I'm waiting." He doesn't need to know it. I need to know it. "Lord, I'm waiting for you." Psalm 46:10, "Be still now and know that I am God." Lord, I'm being still.

I don't allow my thoughts to wander and daydream, and when I sense them wandering and daydreaming, I say, "Stop." I'm being still before the Lord. It's a place that I start to cry out to the Lord, "I'm longing for intimacy with you." I whisper to Him, "I love you." It is pure beauty as you wait how you'll hear His voice back. "I love you. I cherish you. I treasure you."

I give the Lord my full attention. "Lord, I'm here. I believe there's power in this moment. I believe that what we do next is I open the Word and I read the Word and I pray that Word. Then I enter into interceding for my family and ministry and the world. Petition, "Lord, here is the need for me." That I know those things will come because I know that I've connected with Him. The cord has been tied and bound to Him. I'm at one with Him through that scarlet cord, the blood red-soaked cord. That the price has been paid, and I know that I'm welcomed before Him, mercy and grace, no judgment, boldly come the invitation to come. And I just wait.

Sometimes it takes on different forms. I'll just find words coming, speaking, songs coming from my heart. They're different than praise songs. They're the intimate songs, not singing Waymaker. I'm singing songs like Draw Close to You. I'm singing songs Here I Am to Worship You. Then back into this just being still and waiting.

And it becomes a time, where I sense the presence of the Lord in a special way, that I am experiencing His love, He speaking back to me..... I love you Ray. The bible says it, so I believe it, that God sings over us, we His precious Bride (Zephaniah 3:17). In Genesis 24 it is a spiritual picture of God the Father sending the unnamed servant (picture of Holy Spirit) to find a Bride (picture of You and me, the Church), for His Son (Jesus); and when the Bride says "I do, I will", the servant worships (singing and praising) that the Bride said yes. And so a picture of God, He sings of you – He loves you, and He calls us to deeper intimacy, more of Him, and more of us with Him in love. Imagine that, God sings over you.

[Zephaniah 3:17 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Genesis 24:51–52 (NKJV) ⁵¹ Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." ⁵² And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

Church, I believe we have lost the art of waiting in this fast-paced world that's ceaselessly screaming "Look at me, hear me." Information. Be informed. Phones pinging, flashing, Messenger saying, "Here's what is going on over there."

But God says, "Draw near to me and I'll draw near to you." God says be still and know that I am God. In Exodus 14, with their backs up against a Red Sea, Pharaoh and army closing in, that would be the time to get busy. Would it not be that would be the time to find weapons, to draw sticks, dig trenches, pick up stones, start to swim, build bridges and barges and boats? And you witness the Lord speak through His prophet Moses, Exodus 14:13. "Do not be afraid to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you'd see today you'll see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace." And there's a place and we stand still and say, "Yes, you are who you say you are and will do what you say you will do."

Exodus 14:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

Then we do move into the next place of prayer, verse 15. And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the children of Israel to go forth, but lift up your rod and stretch your hand to the sea and divide it. The children of Israel should go through on dry ground in the midst of the sea." The power comes and then the word mixed with faith after we stand still before the Lord. Know that He's God, then we roll up our sleeves. It's time to get together and get to work by faith and taking that step forward of all that He calls us to do.

Exodus 14:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

But, Church, I believe we had lost the art of being still. We try to go forward before we've been still, it becomes frustration or futility. We wonder why we keep ending up in the same place over and over. The strength in the wait room, oh, the power of waiting.

Oh, the beauty of Psalm 130, focusing in on verse five. "I wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in his word, I do hope." The word "wait" means to "tie together". The word "word" means to be behind. I think John 1:1, in the beginning was the word and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Every word of God that we read, He's behind it. He doesn't just speak it. He enforces it. He equips it. He anoints it. He's behind it. His word is true and sure, because the guarantee of his word is himself and the psalm says, and that's why I have hope.

Psalm 130:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

John 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Psalm 130 we read, "wait". The Hebrew word translated "wait" is kavah, which literally speaks of the extension of a cord from one point to another. What a perfect picture. God is at one point. Our hearts are at another. And it is as we wait for and wait upon Him that He keeps in contact with us.

Psalm 130:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

Wait - Etymology (history of the word_). The etymology of the root qwh is not entirely clear. Following the lead of K. Ahrens,¹ some scholars suspect that the verb qwh represents a denominative of the primary noun qaw, qāw (Akk. qû). The noun means "thread, line," a meaning also attested in the OT.² The meaning "cord, line" is attested in Josh. 2:18, 21

When I wait for the Lord, I tie together with the Lord in your word. You're behind your word. I can trust in your word. I hope. I have hope because the tie that binds me is you and your word. How fascinating in Joshua chapter 2:18, We know it as the spies. They speak to Rahab and the promise that would come with the scarlet cord. They're told to bind it. It's the same word here to tie together, the bind yourself to it, tying yourself together with it. It's God who stands behind his word as he would speak to Rahab. This scarlet cord that you tie together, I stand behind this cord and therefore, the guarantee, the down payment of the word and the surety of it is God himself. We have this word that we're bound to, and bind to, and the word is dyed in a scarlet color.

Joshua 2:18–21 (NKJV) ¹⁸ unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. ¹⁹ So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰ And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear." ²¹ Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

It's a scarlet thread because it is colored and soaked by the promise of God sealed on that cross through the finished work of Jesus Christ who gave himself for us.

God's Warning of Becoming Dull of Hearing Jesus (Hebrews 5:11-14)

- God has Much to Say to You (5:11)
- What He Says is Meant to Build Strength-upon-Strength (5:12-13)
- God Daily is Calling Us to the Lord's Gym (5:14)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 6

Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

Passage: Hebrews 6:1-20

Title: Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

Summary: Our passage today is one of the all-time greatest and favorites passages..... of the Devil (the father of all lies). The devil loves to use it to convince believers in Christ, that if they have backslidden, walked away, gone back to their old ways, that they have lost their salvation, and it is impossible to ever be saved again, and that they might as well just give up on the thought of Christ loving them again. Lies, all lies, from the father of lies (the devil). This passage is actually one of the strongest passages in the Bible, of God calling those who have drifted away..... to come home. Join us as we look into the "Heart of God".

Hebrews 6 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits. ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. ⁷ For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸ but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. ⁹ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

It was a bright Sunday morning in 18th century London, but Robert Robinson's mood was anything but sunny. All along the street, there were people hurrying to church, but in the midst of the crowd, Robinson was a lonely man. The sound of church bells reminded him of years past when his faith in God was strong and the church was an integral part of his life. It had been years since he set foot in a church -- years of wandering, disillusionment, and gradual defection from the God he once loved. That love for God -- once fiery and passionate -- had slowly burned out within him, leaving him dark and cold inside. Robinson heard the clip-clop, clip-clop of a horse-drawn cab approaching behind him. Turning, he lifted his hand to hail the driver. But then he saw that the cab was occupied by a young woman dressed in finery for the Lord's Day. He waved the driver on, but the woman in the carriage ordered the carriage to be stopped.

"Sir, I'd be happy to share this carriage with you," she said to Robinson. "Are you going to church?" Robinson was about to decline, then he paused. "Yes," he said at last. "I am going to church." He stepped into the carriage and sat down beside the young woman. As the carriage rolled forward Robert Robinson and the woman exchanged introductions. There was a flash of recognition in her eyes when he stated his name. "That's an interesting coincidence," she said, reaching into her purse. She withdrew a small book of inspirational verse, opened it to a ribbon bookmark, and handed the book to him. "I was just reading a verse by a poet named Robert Robinson. Could it be...?"

He took the book, nodding. "Yes, I wrote these words years ago." "Oh, how wonderful!" she exclaimed. "Imagine! I'm sharing a carriage with the author of these very lines!"

But Robinson barely heard her. He was absorbed in the words he was reading. They were words that would one day be set to music and become a great hymn of the faith, familiar to generations of Christians:

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace'
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

His eyes slipped to the bottom of the page where he read:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it—
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

He could barely read the last few lines through the tears that brimmed in his eyes. "I wrote these words—and I've lived these words. 'Prone to wander...prone to leave the God I love.'"

The woman suddenly understood. "You also wrote, 'Here's my heart, O take and seal it.' You can offer your heart again to God, Mr. Robinson. It's not too late."

And it wasn't too late for Robert Robinson. At that moment he turned his heart back to God and walked with him for the rest of his days.

[Ron Lee Davis, [Courage to Begin Again](#), (Harvest House, Eugene, OR; 1978), pp. 145-147]

Summary

Summary: Our passage today is one of the all-time greatest and favorites passages..... of the Devil (the father of all lies). The devil loves to use it to convince believers in Christ, that if they have backslidden, walked away, gone back to their old ways, that they have lost their salvation, and it is impossible to ever be saved again, and that they might as well just give up on the thought of Christ loving them again. Lies, all lies, from the father of lies (the devil). This passage is actually one of the strongest passages in the Bible, of God calling those who have drifted away..... to come home. Join us as we look into the "Heart of God".

Outline: This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

- The ABC's of Christianity - 6:1-3
- Warning #4 - Departing - 6:4-8
- The Encouragement Through the Promise - 6:9-12
- Resting In His Promise - 6:13-18
- Jesus, His Promise, Our Anchor - 6:19

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

1.) The ABC's of Christianity - 6:1-3

(Hebrews 6:1 NKJV) Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

(Hebrews 6:2 NKJV) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

(Hebrews 6:3 NKJV) And this we will do if God permits.

Tough Passage / Satan Uses It

We will study one of the toughest passages in the Bible, it has been battled over for centuries; Calvinism verses Armenism - the once saved always saved debate and church splitter. The argument over can a person lose their salvation. A Scripture that satan himself uses to split churches, and chase the backslider away from calling on the Lord for forgiveness. We have to start here in verse 1 to understand the verses of 6:4-6.

Therefore / Chp 5 - Dull Hearing

Here in verse 1, the "Therefore" takes us back to chapter 5, verse 11 more precisely, do not become dull (sluggish) of hearing. The word used for dull means ignorant, not as in stupid but in "ignored". They were told not to ignore the word that was taught to them. A truth was shared with someone, but they said I don't care, I'll do it my way and everything will still work out.

Hebrews 5:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

Stop Learning / God stops Teaching

The Warning, when a person become dull of hearing they stop learning and growing. They are not capable of learning anymore because they didn't respond or heed what God had already told them. Why would God continual speak to someone about new things if a person didn't listen to what He had already said. Why would He try to teach us new things if we said we don't believe the things He has told us in past.

Do Step 1 / Dry Bible Studies

Do step one, and He will take you to step two. If your Bible studies are dry, dull, you feel that you are not learning or getting anything out of them, then maybe it is because you have become dull of hearing, and haven't done what He told you to do. Go back and do what He has told you to do, and see what happens in your studies.

Should Have been Teachers / Elementary Principles

In 5:12 they should have been teachers, but they weren't, they had to be taught the basis again. The "elementary principles" as it says here in verse one. In elementary school its ABC, 123, that we learn first before we move on. Well, here we see six ABC's that a Christian should know, six elementary principles:

- The Foundation of Repentance from Dead Works - we can't earn our salvation.
- Faith toward God - The Word mixed with faith as we previously have studied.
- The Doctrine of Baptisms - Water baptism, baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- The Laying on of Hands - finding your spiritual gifts and the empowering for service unto God
- The Resurrection of the Dead - End time's stuff, the Rapture, what lies ahead.
- Eternal Judgment - Hell and the judgment of God upon the Christ rejecting
-

If You are a Believer

If you are a believer, you should understand these things, you should be able to teach them to others, for they are foundational of our Christianity. Parents, Sunday School workers, you have to get these things down and be able to convey them to others.

2.) Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6

6 Warnings of Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

(Hebrews 6:4 NKJV) For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

(Hebrews 6:5 NKJV) and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

(Hebrews 6:6 NKJV) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

(Hebrews 6:7 NKJV) For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

(Hebrews 6:8 NKJV) but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

Told to Move On / Some Tempted Back to Judaism

They were told to move on from the basics, but some not only were not moving forward, some were thinking of going back, going back to Judaism. Remember this is written to Jewish people who recognized that Jesus Christ is the Messiah that was promised to come.

Satan Uses It / Church Uses It

This is the great verse that will lead some to think that once you turn from the Lord it is over, there is no chance to repent and be restored. Satan uses it against the Backslider to tell them it is over, and Christians use it against each other to cause division in the Church.

The Word – To Gather

The foundational, and great Gospel of John begins in verse 1 by saying “in the beginning was the Word”. One of the many meanings of the word “word (Logos”, and it has many deep meanings and truths, is the meaning “to gather”.

λόγος. - Both in general and in detail the development of λόγος is exactly parallel to that of λέγω.

a. The sense “collection” (cf. 1. b.) is attested only of a number of compounds and derivatives,9 e.g., σύλλογος, “gathering” (from Hdt. and the tragedians), παλιλλογος, “assembled again,” Hom. Il., 1, 126, and in class. times often with -λόγος “assembling” (also → σπερμο-λόγος), and -λογεῖν, and cf. the Hell. → λογεία, λογεύειν.

Theological dictionary of the New Testament (electronic ed., Vol. 4, p. 73). Eerdmans.

John 1:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

My point, God’s Word is meant to “gather” people to Himself. His love for man, to gather to Him for a personal and intimate relationship. My point.... He desires to gather, not disperse man from His presence, He call man to “come”.

He will Perfect - Gomer

In Psalm 138:8, He says He will “perfect”, and that His mercy endures forever. I love the Hebrew word there, (gamar) which is a verb tense. And I equally love the derivative of the word, in the noun form, as it is the word (gomer). Which takes me back the remembrance of God’s love story in Hosea, where he tells Hosea to take an unfaithful wife back to himself even after her unfaithfulness. God did to make the allegory, of His love for unfaithful Israel, and His heart changes not, and we can apply that to His love for us. He sends out His Word, which is His heart, to gather us, a person, even when unfaithful, back to Himself. God loves you!

*Psalm 138:8 (NKJV)*⁸ *The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.*

1584 גָּמַר [gamar /gaw-mar/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 363; GK 1698; Five occurrences; AV translates as “cease” once, “fail” once, “come to an end” once, “perfect” once, and “perform” once. 1 to end, come to an end, complete, cease. 1A (Qal). 1A1 to come to an end, be no more. 1A2 to bring to an end, complete. 2 (TWOT) to fail, perfect, perform. Strong, J. (1995). In *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Derivative of the word: 363a - גָּמַר (gōmer) Gomer, a proper name. Gomer was the name of Hosea's unfaithful wife (Hos 1:3). His relationship to her was symbolic of God's relationship to wayward Israel.

*Hosea 1:3 (NKJV)*³ *So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.*

*Hosea 3:1–3 (NKJV)*¹ *Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.”² So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley.³ And I said to her, “You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, will I be toward you.”*

Don't listen to the father of all lies – God wants to gather you back to Himself.

*John 8:44 (NKJV)*⁴⁴ *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

Some say it applies to Non-Believer

Back to our passage context. One school of thought here for this passage is that this reference is not made to a believer but a nonbeliever. Maybe someone who at one time professed Christ, came on Sunday and Wednesday, had the fish on the bumper, and owned all the left behind books, but were in fact never really saved - they looked and acted, but never really were. Remember now, Hebrews was written to believers, it doesn't fit that for these first five chapters the author is talking about things for that apply to believers, and then change in mid-stream to say now he is talking to unbelievers.

They Tasted / Jesus Tasted

In verse 4 it says they tasted. This same school of thought would say well they tasted, but never fully drank it in. The problem I have with that is that in Hebrews 2:9 it says Jesus tasted death for everyone. It is the same Greek word used for taste.

(Hebrews 2:9 NKJV) *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Jesus is our Full Assurance / No More Death to Experience

Jesus is our full assurance; we can rest in His finished work on the cross. If He only tasted it, but didn't fully drink it in, then we are in trouble for that would mean that there is still some death to be experienced. So no, this passage isn't talking about believer-look-alikes, it is referring to true believers:

(Hebrews 3:1 NKJV) *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,*

These people were Spirit-filled, and have experienced the power of God in their life (verse 4-5).

What Does It Mean / Epistle As Whole / Theme of Epistle / What Going On at Time

So then, what does it mean to the believer, and how then is it applied to the believer. To understand it, we have to step back from the verse, back from the chapter, and look at the book in whole. This epistle wasn't meant to be read one chapter at a time, it is literally a sermon that was meant to be read or spoken from start to finish. This verse has to be placed in the context of the whole epistle. What was going on at the time, why was it written to these people.

This Group Looking at the Temple & Judaism

This group of people written to, many had lost their jobs, their homes, their business, some have been killed or persecuted (Hebrews 10). They could hear the trumpets blowing at the temple, they could see their friends heading to the temple to offer sacrifices, they could see how easy

their lives were, and they would ask themselves, what is the use of fighting against it, why not go back to the old way, everything was easier, no hardships and sufferings. They would say to themselves, after all I'm saved, I can blend back in, it isn't a big deal, I've accepted Jesus. Others may have been saying, my life has been nothing but pain since I gave my life to Jesus, where is He during the hard times, where is this life, and that more abundant that he promised, I don't see the advantage of being a Christian.

Context / REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST

In the context the author is screaming to the people, do you realize what you are considering! These people were ready to go back to Judaism, and back to offering of sacrifices in the temple. The author was saying NO - REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST JESUS CHRIST. We can get so confused in the midst of struggles that we lose focus and forget the basic elementary things.

Old Things Passed Away / The Veil Torn

The old things have passed away, the veil has been rent. Do you realize how freaked out the Temple priest would be when they walked in that day and saw the Veil torn in tow and laying on the ground. If that didn't register in your head that it happened simultaneously while Jesus was on the cross, you would have to be a fool. Once a year on the Day of Atonement the High Priest that went behind the Veil would have a rope tied around his leg in case God struck him dead. The Holy of Holies, meant the Most Holy Place, on the whole planet. It was the most reverent place in the World. I would not want to have been the priest who found the veil torn in two and laying on the ground.

[Matthew 27:50-51 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Jesus Final Sacrifice / He is Superior

Jesus was and is the final sacrifice. This whole epistle is about the superiority of Christ, there is none greater, the message is complete, and the way to perfect standing before God that is eternal is through Jesus Christ and Him only.

The Main Point - There is No Other Way / Nothing to Go back to

Main Point: the author, through the Holy Spirit, is saying there is no other way for salvation, except through Jesus and His Cross. A common lamb of the field, sacrificed on the altar in the temple, cannot wash your sin away, YOU CAN NOT be renewed by an animal sacrifice, your sin cannot be covered by a lamb on the altar ever again. Only the Perfect Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) can wash away your sin. Only Jesus can make you white as snow. Now that Jesus has come, there is no other way, there is nothing to go back to.

Praise Him / Don't Need to Keep Grabbing a Lamb / Just Look

Praise Him, Praise Him for that, praise Him that there is no other way. Praise Him that we do not have to keep grabbing a lamb and heading back to the temple and the altar. Praise Him that all we have to do is look to the final Lamb - Jesus Christ.

(Hebrews 6:6 NKJV) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

(Hebrews 6:7 NKJV) For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

(Hebrews 6:8 NKJV) but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

To Think Another Way Insult to God / Common Animal / Lowers God

For these Hebrew believers at the time, or for us today, to think that there is another way - whether by animal sacrifices or my good works, is an insult to God. It is shameful to say that an animal is equal to God - Jesus Christ. That a common animal can wash away my sin; that puts that lamb that they would go sacrifice at the temple again - **equal with Jesus Himself**. What an

insult to Him for it lowers God Himself to the level of an animal, and that brings Him shame. Jesus is not just another lamb.

Once and for All / NOT Once isn't Enough

Jesus died once and for all; He went to the cross once, and said it is finished, there never needs to be made another sacrifice ever again, it is finished. But if these Hebrew believers went to the temple and started offering sacrifices again, they would be in essence saying, once wasn't enough, and they would be crucifying Jesus again, again, and again.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

(Hebrews 10:4 NKJV) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Hebrews 10:7-14 (NKJV) ⁷ Then I said, "Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God." ⁸ Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all.** ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

A Warning Given / Time To Do Something / Examine

This is Warning number 4 of 6 in this epistle. A warning is given so you have time to do something about it. The two-minute warning in football means you still have two minutes to play, but you only have two minutes to play. We get warnings in our lives so we can examine ourselves and say how am I doing in terms of that warning. Am I safe from the danger, or am I close to problems.

Step Back / Clear Your Head / Peter- where would we go

The author was saying to them, step back, clear your head, do you realize what you are considering, going back to Judaism, and animal sacrifices, no way, for there is no other way. God has given you better - Jesus the Final Sacrifice! Don't go back, for there is nothing to go back to. Do you remember in John 6 Jesus made the statement I Am the Bread of Life, and if anyone eats this bread which is my flesh they shall have eternal life. Then some people said that's weird I'm out of here. Then Jesus said to Peter will you leave me also, and Peter said those beautiful, true words, Lord....where would we go. There is no where else to go.

(John 6:51 NKJV) "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

(John 6:66 NKJV) From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

(John 6:67 NKJV) Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

(John 6:68 NKJV) But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

There have been times in my walk where I have wanted to quit, give it up and take the easy route, but I always came to the same place, where would I go, not just for eternal life, but in this life, I couldn't live any other way, I'd be miserable.

Remember better, perfect, and eternal; Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us perfect standing before God.

Adding to is Blasphemy

Let me say this clearly, to add to, or take away from the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, is blasphemy. People say Jesus and.....Joseph Smith, Jesus and.....my good works, Jesus and.....the 7 sacraments. No, it is Jesus and....the CROSS. Period!!!! The only way to the Father and eternal salvation, that is the theme of this epistle – the superiority of Christ over everything.

This is not a hypothetical pondering in these verses, this addresses real people who departed. They said Jesus wasn't enough for the forgiveness of sin. They are saying the "High Priesthood" of Jesus is imperfect, inferior, need man's priesthood because God's isn't enough or good enough. Again that is blasphemy, and it is blasphemy against the witness of the Holy Spirit that testifies man's sin separates him from the Holy God, and only Jesus "alone" can cover man's sin through His finished work on the cross.

[Matthew 12:31–32 \(NKJV\)](#) ³¹ "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

[John 14:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

These people are not making an "honest" mistake, they are willfully declaring literally a "new" religion, and thus dissolving that Jesus is the only way.

But..... even still, notice the word in verse 8, "and near to being cursed", that there is still time for them to repent and return to the Lord. They must recognize the offense and shame and error, and then repent and return to the Gospel (Jesus Christ and Him alone for salvation). If that is you today, your version of salvation is "impossible" for the covering and repentance of sin; your version of salvation will bring damnation upon you, eternal separation, the place of torment which is hell. Repent of you sin, and put your trust in Jesus as the only means and way to cover your sin. Then live and bear a life that has the fruit of salvation.

[John 1:29 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

[John 14:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

So again I remind and cry out to the prodigals, the wayward, those that have drifted away – that is not you, don't let Satan twist this passage, that you can't come home. You know the Gospel, you believe it, you just backslid.... But you are not saying Jesus Christ and adding to the Gospel. Don't fall for Satan's twist (or even the churches and other Christians) – Jesus is calling you, gathering you, Gomer come back to my love!

***** The Debate / Lose is an Accident *****

So, can a person lose their salvation, I would say absolutely not for to lose something means to "happen by accident". Jesus promises to keep us in his hand:

[John 10:27–29 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁷ *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

No Snatch / Can Jump / Free-will

Although no one can snatch me out of His hand, it doesn't say I can't by free-will chose to leave His hand. Free-will to chose Him, would also give me free-will to reject Him later. Why and how anyone could is beyond my comprehension, but I personally know people that have made commitments to the Lord, and later came to say I don't want to follow Him no more, I hate Him, He took my daughter, my wife, He hasn't cured my cancer, I can't and won't follow Him. Where will they spend eternity? That's not my ministry, and that is the most important point I want to make here, it isn't for us to decide, it is for us to point. God will examine and decide, we are to point and show, the only way.

Our Ministry / Elementary Principles / Walk - Fire&Smoke

My ministry is to tell people the 100% sure way. My ministry is to make sure they understand the ABC, the elementary principles. I am sure of the principles, and I am sure of the sure way. I won't tell you how far you can walk near the fire and not get burned, I'll tell you the sure way to walk that you won't even have a drop of the scent of smoke.

The Broken

If someone comes and says ohh I blew it, God will never take me back, I'm such a fool; I tell them the story of the Prodigal Son. I tell them 1 John 1:9, Philippians 1:6

Luke 15:18-20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

The Rebellious

When I have to go find a brother and say what are you doing, why are you living in this sin and calling yourself a Christian, and they say hey man, once saved always saved; that is when I tell them the story of the Wicked Servant, Ephesians 5:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

Matthew 25:26-30 (NKJV) ²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Ephesians 5:3-6 (NKJV) ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Give the Warning / Called to Point - Not Decide

I give them a warning, so they still have time to do something about it, so they can examine their heart and hopefully seek the Lord. Where they spend eternity, not my call, for my calling is to point.

Stick to Elementary Principle

For all, stick to the elementary principles and you won't be drawn away, but have a solid foundation for greater maturity.

Avoid the Debate / Debaters Don't know the Theme

People who argue and cause division over this debate seem to always have one thing in common, they aren't evangelizing and winning souls to the Lord, because they are too busy arguing and trying to get everyone to hear their side. They will have a hard time agreeing to this interpretation because they don't know the theme of the Epistle, and the context of the first 5 chapters.

Clear Your Head / Jesus not Equal with Animal

AGAIN, the author was saying to them, step back, clear your head, do you realize what you are considering, going back to Judaism, and animal sacrifices, no way, for there is no other way. God has given you better - Jesus the Final Sacrifice!!! - that brings us verse 9, because this is a warning, and that author says I know you'll head this warning once you step back and consider what you'd actually be doing - going to the temple and making Jesus equal with and animal.

3.) The Encouragement Through the Promise - 6:9-12

(Hebrews 6:9 NKJV) But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

Note, "better things concerning you" – clearly talking to people who had not drifted, and still had ears to hear. But nonetheless, a warning that all should consider.

(Hebrews 6:10 NKJV) For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Your High Priest Knows your Struggle

God is not unjust to forget your work and labor, the author is saying God knows what you are going through, remember He walked where you walked, He can relate to you, that is why He can be your High Priest, don't run from Him but to Him.

**(Hebrews 6:11 NKJV) And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,
(Hebrews 6:12 NKJV) that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

Imitate the Faithful / Body We Need you Healthy

They are told to imitate the faithful they have witnessed. May we be faithful people that will imitated.

Body, we need you healthy and reproducing, not ill and causing others to stray. Get into your walk with all your heart, mind and soul.

Don't be Sluggish / Temple soon Destroyed

They are told not to be sluggish (same Greek word used in 5:11 for Dull of Hearing). So they are told not to be sluggish, be patient, for what they didn't know was, that soon, those very same people who they thought had it better, that their lives were going to be shaken, for in just a few years, Nero would come in and not only destroy the temple, he would slaughter thousands of Jews. They say that they blood flowed through the streets of Jerusalem like a river. For those people who ignored the "Final Sacrifice", they would have no foundation to fall back on, and for many, they would have missed out on the opportunity of eternal life in the presence of the King. For those who were considering going back to Judaism, there would be no temple to go back to in just a few years, so then where would they be.

Church join us for our prophecy studies, so we don't get wrapped up into this world, but be waiting and looking for the next to come – which as we see in the world around us, is soon.

Those of you that are struggling, those of you that say this walk called Christianity is tough - Rest. Just rest/wait as we studied last week, rest in Jesus. He is going to see us through. And know this, whatever you would ever be tempted to be drawn back to is all going to burn and fail you at some time. Only Jesus will stand against them all, for he is superior, He is Our full assurance. He promised!

4.) Rest In His Promise - 6:13-18

(Hebrews 6:13 NKJV) For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

(Hebrews 6:14 NKJV) saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

(Hebrews 6:15 NKJV) And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

(Hebrews 6:16 NKJV) For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Abe waited 26 years / Told to Hold On

Abraham waited patiently, even when the promise of a son looked hopeless, but God fulfilled his promise. He had to wait 25 years, with a barren wife, but Isaac came. These believers were encouraged to hold on and hang in there; it will be worth the wait. The same is true for us today, sometimes it is tough, and sometimes we want to quit, but hang in there God is doing a mighty work.

V.13 - He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, Men swear by something greater than himself to prove he is serious, but for God He can't swear by something greater because there is nothing greater. So God gives His Word, and that settles it.

(Hebrews 6:17 NKJV) Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, (Hebrews 6:18 NKJV) that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Quoted from Psalm 110

2 Immutable things (which means unchanging):

- His Promise
- His Oath

He can't lie, and His Word will always be true. God said it that settles it - Amen. His promise becomes our refuge, the place we can run to with full assurance. This passage, this chapter 6 is not to be a place of division and scattering, but a place of hope and gathering.

5.) Jesus, His Promise, Our Anchor - 6:19

(Hebrews 6:19 NKJV) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

A promise (the High Priest) who has passed through the earthly veil of the Temple, and into heaven. The warning to those who were saying that isn't enough, we need the earthly priesthood; but to us here today, the Promise..... it is all we need, and He is our anchor that we can hold on to in this life and the life to come.

God has kept His promise, He promised us a Savior and He gave Us One, Himself. The anchor!

A nail in a sure place:

Isaiah 22:23-24. (Jesus picks this up when He talks to church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3. Jesus takes these words and applies them to Himself in Revelation 3). A nail in a sure place. They would hang pots and pans, coats and valuables on the pegs in the tents, and they knew it would hold everything. Jesus is our Nail in a sure place, we can hang all our burdens, failures, insecurities on Him, and be sure it will hold. We are in His Hands, His hands are a sure thing. [Isaiah 22:21-24 \(NKJV\)](#) ²¹ I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. ²² The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. ²³ I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. ²⁴ They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

He is resting in His love for us, so should we:

[Zephaniah 3:17 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

God promised us He will see us through this life, hang on to the rock, the sure place, no matter how pounded you may get, and never, never, ever go back to anything less than Jesus Christ

(Hebrews 6:20 NKJV) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Next Study - Melchizedek

Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

- The ABC's of Christianity - 6:1-3
- Warning #4 - Departing - 6:4-8
- The Encouragement Through the Promise - 6:9-12
- Resting In His Promise - 6:13-18
- Jesus, His Promise, Our Anchor - 6:19

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 7

Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

Passage: Hebrews 7:1-28

Title: Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood

Summary: Jesus and His Priesthood is so often overlooked and missed on how significant this truth and declaration is to us as believers. In our passage we will see 4 things that Jesus is superior to as compared to things man trusts in on earth, and “therefore” Our God can meet and fulfill those things far superior to anything we or another person can. The resultant... is living the “Victorious Christian Life”. Join us as we look at another wonderful passage about Our Wonderful God.

We ended our last study in the close of chapter 6:

*Hebrews 6:19–20 (NKJV)*¹⁹ *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,*²⁰ *where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Our anchor, Jesus Christ, ripping the veil so that we may enter into the Presence of the Father.

*Matthew 27:50–52 (NKJV)*⁵⁰ *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.*⁵¹ *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*⁵² *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;*

The Veil / Radical for Jewish Reader / Come into His Presence

Jesus brings us into the presence of the Father by tearing the Veil, and we are told it is because He is a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. It was written in Hebrew writings that the veil was 60 feet by 30 feet, and 10 inches thick. They say it took 100 priests to handle it and hang it. God is saying to the reader come into my presence, come just as you are, the veil, the door has been opened unto you to come into my presence. To the Jewish reader this was radical for their whole life God was separated from them by this veil, only the High Priest could come before Him, and that was only once a year. For many today this is still a radical statement, for they can believe or accept that they can come before God.

We Can / He is our Forerunner

But they could, and we can, because we have a High Priest who makes a way for us, Jesus Christ. He is the “forerunner”, the first in and the rest of us can follow. The idea here is of a Team Captain leading his team out of the locker room unto the field in front of the cheering fans. That is our Jesus, He is our Captain, the Captain of Our Salvation, and He leads us out of the grave, He is leading the charge and we are all following behind our Team Captain. The NFL hasn’t a clue of what it means to be led out by a leader.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Jesus is our anchor, our peg (see last week’s study, He is our Rock!

The Rock

I’m reminded of a story of a man who was kayaking in the ocean and got tossed from his craft when high waves came up. He managed to swim over to a rock and grab on to it. He dug his hands into some clefts in the rock and hung on. The waves would hit him and pound him up and down, throw him all around the rock, but he never let go. Finally the seas calmed, and he made it to shore. People rant o him saying you are lucky to be alive, you are lucky you didn’t drown. Man you were tossed all over that rock from the waves, and he answered and said yea, but did you notice the rock never moved.

Jesus is our rock, our anchor, and in our study today we will see 4 solid rocks we can stand on, hang on to, because He is our High Priest. Jesus is our anchor, our peg (see last week's study, He is our Rock! And in our passage today He gives us 4 things we can dig into, grab hold of, and when the waves come and the doubts arise, we can hold onto and be reminded of these 4 truths that He desires us to know His superiority in and over!

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

- Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs
- Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins
- Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living
- Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Mentioned Twice OT / Expected to Know about Him

Melchizedek, the mysterious man that met Abraham after a battle, the man only mentioned in two places in the Old Testament, but gets a whole chapter here in the Book of Hebrews. Although he is only mentioned two times in the Old Testament, the author of this book had expected these readers to know all about him, thus, so then should we, and we will in this study.

Hebrews 5:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

1.) Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10

Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs

As we study the story of Melchizedek, the author will point out along the way that Jesus is superior to Abraham, another radical statement to the Jew. Abraham was the father of their faith, and we will see that Jesus is superior, because His priesthood is according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 7:1 NKJV) For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, (Hebrews 7:2 NKJV) to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," (Hebrews 7:3 NKJV) without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Great Covert Ops

Abraham met Melchizedek on the way home from a battle. Israel has had a long line of battles and special operations. Maybe you recall the story of 1976, what many military strategists call the greatest commando raid ever, the greatest "special ops" ever in the history of man, carried out by the Israeli special Ops Forces in 1976.

The Entebbe Rescue Mission

On June 27, 1976, four terrorists forced an Air France Airbus to land in Uganda, in the heart of distant Africa. They quickly demanded that Israel release 53 convicted terrorists (PLO). The hijackers freed the French crew and non-Jewish passengers, while retaining 105 Jewish and Israeli hostages. A 48-hour deadline was set before executions would begin.

Faced with little choice, the Israeli government announced that it would enter into negotiations. This bought the precious time needed to consolidate a seemingly impossible military option. A new ultimatum was issued for 13:00 on Sunday, July 4.

The only airplane capable of a rescue operation was the C-130 Hercules. On July 1, the mission's overall commander, Brig. General Dan Shomron (later to become the IDF Chief-of-Staff), presented his plan to the IDF Commander and Israel's Defense Minister. The next day they all witnessed a full-scale dress rehearsal. The incredible was deemed possible.

Shomron's plan was based on several advantages that the Israelis had over the terrorists. The Entebbe airport at which the hostages were being held was built by an Israeli construction firm, which was able to provide Shomron with blueprints. Moreover, the released, non-Jewish hostages were able to describe the terrorists, their arms, and their positioning. As a result, the IDF decided to send in an overwhelmingly powerful force: over 200 of the best soldiers the army had to offer participated in the raid, all of them heavily armed.

Finally, the element of surprise was probably the biggest edge that Israel held. According to Shomron: "You had more than 100 people sitting in a small room, surrounded by terrorists with their fingers on the trigger. They could fire in a fraction of a second. We had to fly seven hours, land safely, drive to the terminal area where the hostages were being held, get inside, and eliminate all the terrorists before any of them could fire." The fact that no one expected the Israelis to take such risks was precisely the reason that they took them.

The aircraft took off at 13:20 on July 3 and headed south. Only then was the plan revealed to the Israeli Cabinet, which decided to let the operation continue. The lead Hercules carried the rescue force, led by Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu. It also held two jeeps and the now famous black Mercedes, a perfect copy of dictator Idi Amin's personal car. Two additional Hercules carried reinforcements and troops assigned to carry out special missions, such as destroying the Migs parked nearby. A fourth Hercules was sent to evacuate the hostages.

The air package also included two Boeing 707's. One acted as a forward command post. The second, outfitted as an airborne hospital, landed in nearby Nairobi, Kenya. The Hercules was escorted by F4 Phantoms as far as possible—about one-third the distance.

Skirting thunderstorms over Lake Victoria, the Hercules transports neared the end of the 7-hour, 40-minute flight. A surprise awaited them: the runway lights were on! Despite this, they landed undetected at 23:01 (local time), only one minute past their planned arrival time.

The soldiers freed the hostages in a lightning attack, killing all eight terrorists in the process. Tragically, force commander Yoni Netanyahu was killed as he led the hostages toward the safety of the aircraft; additionally, two hostages were killed in the crossfire inside the airport. The other squads accomplished their missions in virtually the same time as during the "dry-run." By 23:59 the planes were on their way home. The operation, which was predicted to last one hour, in fact took only 58 minutes.

The mission struck a blow at international terrorism. "It resonated far and wide," Shomron later commented. "It showed that you could counter terrorism, and that it was worth cooperating to do so." As America celebrated its Bicentennial, the world was reminded that freedom is a value which must be fought for in every generation.

Abraham Father of Covert Ops

It was a great covert special operations, but it wasn't the greatest, there was one greater, and we read about it in Genesis chapter 14. Two kings overcame 5 kings in a fierce battle, and they carried away Abraham's nephew Lot in the midst of the battle. Lot was now a hostage. When Abraham heard he took 318 of his servants, divided them into two, and brought to the enemy two attack positions in the night, he rescued Lot and all the others and their goods. Abraham was the first Israeli to be a Special Ops Warrior, and execute a covert plan in what seems like an impossible situation.

[Genesis 14:13–16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. ¹⁴ Now when Abram

heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

Abraham meets Melchizedek

So back in Genesis fourteen, we read that as Abraham was returning from the victory over the five kings, that had taken his nephew, Lot as a hostage, he had conquered over the five kings, chasing them all of the way to the gates of Damascus. He had defeated them and taken much spoil. And as he came back the king of Sodom met him to show his appreciation. But then in Genesis 14:18 he is met by the King of Salem, whose name we are told is "Melchizedek.

Genesis 14:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

Salem – Peace / Righteousness / Melech - King

Breakdown:

- The word, Salem (this is another name for Jerusalem), means "peace", so He is the "king of peace".
- He was the priest of the Most High God. This is the first mention of a priest in the Bible, and it is used in reference to this mysterious man, Melchizedek.
- Melchizedek, means King of Righteousness.
 - *Melech* - Hebrew for "king"
 - *tsadîq*, - Hebrew for "righteousness"
 - thus the King of Righteousness

No Genealogy

But this mysterious Melchizedek has a unique genealogy. We follow the genealogy from Abraham on through to Joseph and to the twelve sons of Jacob, in the Book of Genesis. And over and over again we have the genealogies. It was very important in the Book of Genesis to list the genealogies, to list their births and of course we read, and he begat sons and daughters and he died. And he begat sons and daughters and he died. So it records the birth as well as the death of those important characters in the Book of Genesis.

But suddenly, here we have a man that comes on the scene. He is called the king of peace. His name means the king of righteousness. And Abraham received a blessing from him. And Abraham pays tithes to him. And yet no genealogy. We are not told who his parents were. We're not told when he was born. We're not told when he died. So from this, the writer of Hebrews draws out the fact that he is without the genealogy, without any background, he suddenly comes on the scene. He is without generation. He is without descent. That is, we hear nothing of the descendants of Melchizedek. Nothing is told of his birth or of His death.

Theophany / Bread & Wine

Why I believe there is no genealogy is because this is one of the manifestations of God in the Old Testament. I believe that Melchizedek was Jesus Christ Himself. A theophany is what the Theologians call this. I find it ever so interesting in that Melchizedek shows up with what when He meets Abraham, "bread and wine", the elements of the Lord's Supper, the elements that represent Christ's broken body and poured out blood.

John 8 / Abraham saw my Day

In the eighth of chapter of John, when Jesus is disputing with the Jews, Jesus said to them, your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day and he saw it and he was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, You are not fifty years old. And have You seen Abraham. And Jesus said unto them, verily, verily I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am!

John 8:56–58 (NKJV) ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

(Hebrews 7:4 NKJV) Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

(Hebrews 7:5 NKJV) And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

V5 – from the loins of Levi - By the way, the scripture is confirming here the DNA (linage) that is passed on in “every” life. And, the determination whether male or female. Church, we have been praying week after week for the sanctity of life, and praise the Lord many victories have been won, but still a long-long way to go. Don’t let up now. God is calling Special-Ops, to come rescue and save the babies in the womb. God gives a special calling, and honor, for those who stand up for the widows and orphans, and truly these children are being orphaned.

- In humans, each cell normally contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46. Twenty-two of these pairs, called autosomes, look the same in both males and females. The 23rd pair, the sex chromosomes, differ between males and females. Females have two copies of the X chromosome, while males have one X and one Y chromosome.
- **James 1:27 (NKJV)** ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
- **Psalm 68:5 (NKJV)** ⁵ A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

(Hebrews 7:6 NKJV) but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

(Hebrews 7:7 NKJV) Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

(Hebrews 7:8 NKJV) Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

(Hebrews 7:9 NKJV) Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,

(Hebrews 7:10 NKJV) for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Melchizedek was greater than Abraham because Abraham paid tithes to Him:

The Lesser is Blessed by the Greater

The sons of Levi, who took the office of the priesthood, are commanded to receive the tithes from the people. And the sons of Levi came out of the loins of Abraham. But this man who was not a descendant of Abraham, received tithes from Abraham. We then are told that he blessed Abraham. The writer points out that the lesser is always blessed by the greater. So the inference is that this Melchizedek was even greater than their father Abraham because he blessed Abraham and the lesser is blessed by the greater.

Levi Tithed Melchizedek – Because in the Lion of Abraham

And then it is pointed out that the priests who come from the tribe of Levi, die. They receive the tithes of the people, but yet death is the destiny for each of them. But Melchizedek who received the tithes from Abraham, it is recorded of him, that he lived for God said, in Psalm 110, thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. He points out that Levi, the tribe of Levi, the Levitical priesthood, actually paid tithes to Melchizedek, in that the Levi genes were in Abraham in the time that he paid the tithes. The Levitical priesthood came through the line of Levi, who came from Jacob, who came from Isaac, who came from Abraham.

Psalm 110:4 (NKJV) ⁴ The LORD has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Tithe 500 years Before the Law / Jesus Confirms Tithing

Abraham tithed to God way before the Law came, some 500 years before the Law. So some people will say that tithing is not applicable to the Christian because tithing was established with the Law, but that is not true, Abraham tithed 500 years before the Law. Well where is tithing in the

New Testament, people say you won't find it in the New Testament, therefore it is not applicable, they are wrong again:

*(Matthew 23:23 NKJV) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. **These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.***

Jesus confirms they should be tithing.

Paul Hits the Mark

And Paul brings the whole issue together by simply saying, its all about the heart:

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 (NKJV) ⁵ Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of generosity* and not as a grudging obligation. ⁶ But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

The Tithe Honored Who Brought the Victory

What God is confirming here "as being greater than Abraham" is that He brings the victories in our lives, and Abraham is confirming that by tithing to Melchizedek. Abraham is saying, this victory was brought by you, and so I give honor due unto You. It is a little seen subtlety, until we piece all the pieces together.

Fear Not – I Have You Covered

Then chapter 15 of Genesis, God says Abraham, Fear Not:

Genesis 15:1 (NKJV) ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

God spoke these words, "fear not", because obviously Abraham was in fear. He feared no doubt that maybe the 2-kings, (or 5-kings) would mount a counter-strike against him. But God is saying, I have you covered Abraham.

God Shall Supply All Our Needs & Every Battle Belongs to the Lord

What does all this mean, that Jesus is Superior to Abraham, because Abraham paid tithes to Him.

Melchizedek, Jesus Himself is confirming all victories are through God and all your future victories will be through God. Everything that we have comes from above. Everything that we have has been supplied by Him. Our God supplies all of our needs in Christ Jesus. And this is what the picture is being painted here. Abraham, your victory has come through me and hence why Abraham will recognize that and tithe Melchizedek who is Jesus in the flesh called Melchizedek. That he, Abraham will recognize that the battle belonged to the Lord and the victory was because of him.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Jesus says, "Fear not, Abraham. I delivered you this victory today, and I will deliver you the victories tomorrow. And that's why you can rest in me." You can anchor in me, I am your rock.

2.) Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17

Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins

(Hebrews 7:11 NKJV) Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

A Need for a New Priesthood

So he draws the conclusion then, that if the Levitical priesthood had been complete (perfection), there would not have been a necessity for another priesthood to arise, which was after the order of Melchizedek. Why not a priest after the order of Aaron? So as we go through this, we see these are the points that are being made as he is making inferences from things that are not said.

The sacrifices made by the priests through the Levitical priesthood could only cover sin, they could never take sin away – they could only cover until you sinned again, and thus needed to go and sacrifice again to cover again.

(Hebrews 7:12 NKJV) For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

(Hebrews 7:13 NKJV) For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

(Hebrews 7:14 NKJV) For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

(Hebrews 7:15 NKJV) And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest

Psalm 110 says a new priest would arise after Melchizedek. The Father was speaking of the Son, Jesus Christ, and the writer quotes Psalm 110 here in verse 17:

(Hebrews 7:16 NKJV) who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

(Hebrews 7:17 NKJV) For He testifies:

***"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."***

Now if the priesthood of the tribe of Levi were perfect, it wouldn't be necessary that God create His Son a priest from a different order, because He was from the Judah.

Both Priest and King (Through Melchizedek & David)

It is interesting that Melchizedek was both priest and King. Our Jesus is both King and Priest, and the Scriptures clearly shows that He has claim to both.

- First He is High Priest because He is from the order of Melchizedek which is greater than the Levitical priesthood.
- And He can be King, because He was born through the Lineage of David.

Jeremiah prophecies about Jesus coming through the line of David, and notice what else, He will be called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS", Melchizedek means "King of Righteousness".

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

The angel confirms it to Mary, and we read the genealogy in Matthew 1 that Jesus came through the line of David, how marvelous how the Scriptures weave together:

Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV) ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Matthew 1:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Jesus' Priesthood: Peace & Righteousness

So through Melchizedek, we see the high priesthood of Jesus Christ has a very clear role and purpose,

- righteousness and peace.

And it's a solid rock. It's an anchor and it's a peg that we can hold onto that. Through His righteousness, we may have peace (King of Salem, King of Righteousness). My righteousness is secured through my relationship with Him of His righteousness that he Hobes me in.

Righteousness means right standing. And that's where we can be secure that we have right standing with Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

But let it be known, there is no peace apart from righteousness. We must be robed appropriately to come into His presence, and that dress attire is the "robe of righteousness".

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Confession Still Required

We always quote Hebrews 4:16, "Boldly come to the throne of grace to find help in time of need." And we make the point that we'll find mercy and grace, that there won't be judgment, but let not that be confused with prior verses there in verse 12, that all things are naked before him. There's still a place that we need to be dressed appropriate to come to the throne of grace. And that is to be robed in righteousness. For he who knew no sin became sin for us, that he might become the righteousness of God. And there's a place that we need to continually come back to. 1 John, 1:9, that, "If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all in righteousness." We need to be robed in righteousness and there's a place positionally as sons and daughters that that was sealed on the cross. But there's the place that we come relationally, that we have to come and confess our sin and our offense before him, because it's still an offense before him. And therefore, it must be covered with confession.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That confession must be coupled with repentance. Repentance means (to change direction, to change your mind), and that is specifically to change one's mind about sinning before the Holy God, and changing direction away from it.

Which leads us to the next point.

3.) Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19

Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living

We will study this area more in depth in chapters 8,9 and 10, but here are a few key points:

(Hebrews 7:18 NKJV) For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,

(Hebrews 7:19 NKJV) for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

The Law is Good

The Law is good, first for revealing the need for a Savior as it reveals our guilt before The Holy God, and secondly it is good as it shows us good and a godly way to live. Live out the Law of God, and you will be living a prescribed by God, and find life and that more abundant.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

The Law says you shall not steal, and let me give you a word-play, don't rob yourself by disregarding the Law of God, for it is good for godly living.

Law Only Revealed Sin – Couldn't make you Righteous

The law could not make a person righteous. Keeping the law would not make a person righteous. The law could only reveal to you your sin and condemn you because of your sin. There was no provision within the law for you to be righteous or for you to even keep the law. It was just there to show you were guilty before God.

A Covering

And that it was necessary that you then offer a sacrifice for your sins to bring to God a sin offering. The law itself could make nothing perfect. The sacrifices could not take away your sin. The sacrifices could only cover your sin. The word, atonement, in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word, *kophar*, which means a covering. But they could not put away your sins as we will read a little further in Hebrews, it was impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin.

Priest Had to Approach for You

Under the law the person was still distant from God. The priest would approach God for you. The law could not bring you near to God. So the weaknesses of the law, in that it could not make you righteous. It could not give you the power to keep the law. Nor could it put away your sins nor could it draw you near to God. So the law was weak and disannulled because it was unprofitable.

Jesus is the Better Covenant

But the Lord has made a better covenant with us through Jesus Christ. And so it's not after the old commandment but after the power of the eternal life in Jesus. For He testified Thou are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

For the law made nothing perfect, bringing in of a better hope did. Now this idea of Jesus, being better. The New Covenant in Jesus, being better. A better covenant, a better hope. As you go through the Book of Hebrews, you find this brought throughout the whole Book. There is pointing to Jesus as the better way.

Jesus our anchor, our full assurance.

Biology Test

It reminds me of the Biology final. It was a tough class, and the final exam promised to be very difficult. The professor decided to give the students a break. He told the class they could bring to the exam as much information as would fit on a piece of notebook paper. Most students wrote in tiny print cramming as much as possible on an 8.5 by 11 inch sheet of paper. Except for one student. He came to class, laid a sheet of notebook paper on the floor, and had his friend - a graduate student in biology - stand on the paper. His expert friend told him all he needed to know. And he was the only student in the Biology class that day to get an "A." Proving conclusively, it's not as much what you know as it is who you know that counts.

And this is very true in religion! No one can enter the presence of a perfect, holy God on his or her own. You can only go as far as your priest is able to take you.

People talk about wanting power in their lives to do great and mighty things, such as preaching to the multitudes, healings, raising the dead, handling snakes and the likes. These things that would be so powerful, so we say, but many Christians live in an impotent life because sin continually robs them. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness of sin.

People want power, but sin makes us impotent. There is the joy that there is a way, even if it's just one way. We praise God that there is a way that our sin can be forgiven and that our sin can be overcome, that I don't have to be a slave and live under its oppression for a life. And that I have someone who can do something about it, that I can run to and say save now. Save me from this sin. Not just from punishment, but save me from sin and the power of it because God's law is good and God's law brings power into our lives.

His Works

Psalm 145, verse 10, "All your works will praise you and saints shall bless you." We read Psalm 138, verse eight that says, "Your works and the perfection of them, and will praise you for your works. And God's works were two nails in his hands, and now God's work, I am his works and I praise him for that." Psalm 145, verse 11, "My life redeemed speaks of his glory and talk of your power that you could and would do a mighty work in me."

[Psalm 145:10–11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,

[Psalm 138:8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ The LORD will perfect *that which* concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

4.) Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28

- **Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly**

Summation up front of this point is that the Old Covenant we have been looking at in this chapter is based on "man" and his ability to perform "perfectly to God's standard; but the New Covenant is based on God's ability to perform and accomplish the perfection – and He does!

Thus the way to live the abundant and victorious Christian life. Do you want to have that today, you can through Jesus Christ and not your works and efforts.

[John 10:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

We will study this area more in depth in chapters 8,9 and 10 also.

**(Hebrews 7:20 NKJV) And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath
(Hebrews 7:21 NKJV) (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:**

***"The LORD has sworn
And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek'"***),

Quoted from Psalm 110.

Inherited Priesthood / Some Bad – Some Good

The priests of the Old Testament were made priests just because of their being of the tribe of Levi. There was no oath taken by God, that they should be priests. They were just priests because they came in the genealogical order. Some of the priests were very bad. Some of the high priests were wicked men.

At the time that Jesus came into the world, the high priesthood was really corrupt. They were of the sects of the Sadducees. They were humanists. They were materialists. They were corrupt. And yet it was only because they were descendants of Levi and of Aaron, that they had the position of the High Priest, but not really declared by God to their office, but they received it just as the result of birth from the tribe of Levi.

Psalm 110 is a swearing in ceremony of the Father swearing in the Son into the High Priesthood forever. The Levitical priest became priest by inheritance, but Psalm 110, God is swearing His Son into the priesthood for life.

Verse 21, "We hold firm to this because God has sworn an oath and a promise to us that he can't lie and that he shall keep. Our God will never leave us nor forsake us. Our God will supply all of our needs in Christ Jesus. He'll cover our sin. He is our Victor. The battle belongs to the Lord. He gives us the power to overcome and be victorious in the Christian life. This is the power that comes through him. Praise the Lord."

(Hebrews 7:22 NKJV) by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. (Hebrews 7:23 NKJV) Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. (Hebrews 7:24 NKJV) But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

All This – Compare Old Covenant to New Covenant

All the pictures here are comparison of the old covenant to the new covenant, and that Jesus is greater than the old covenant.

The Old Priest Would Die – But not Jesus

The priest they looked up to would eventually die, therefore the priesthood would constantly change. Jesus' priesthood was eternal, would never change, we could always be sure of it, therefore it was better.

Unchangeable – Non-Transferable

Jesus' priesthood never ends for He never dies. The word "unchangeable" means, non-transferable:

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

No man in a collar, or booth can take the role of the High Priest. The Old System had many priests, but in the new system there is only one priest.

(Hebrews 7:25 NKJV) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Verse 25, "The priesthood that Jesus is over, the priest would receive the sacrifice and the offering. And then, he would make the offering on behalf of man."

Saves to Uttermost / Intercession

This is why He is able to save to the uttermost, all who come unto God by Him, because He ever lives to make intercession for them. The uttermost, meaning people of nations. No longer is salvation something exclusively for the Jew. But through Jesus Christ, God has thrown the door open wide and invited all men to come in. Whosoever will, let him come and drink of the water of life freely!

- Save to the uttermost means save from the most dire circumstances.
- Save to the uttermost means save from the deepest depths of sin and defilement.
- Save to the uttermost means to be saved for all eternity. It's ultimate.

The requirement—all who will come unto God by Him. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. And no man comes to the Father, but by Me!

Sozo – Full Orb of Blessing

This word here, "save" (Sozo means full orb). It's the full orb of God's blessing. It's not just saved for something future, but it's a full orb and bounty of God's blessing right now here today to live that victorious Christian life. Praise the Lord.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

**(Hebrews 7:26 NKJV) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;
(Hebrews 7:27 NKJV) who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.**

Jesus was Holy – No Need for Sacrifice

Now the high priest had to first of all, offer sacrifices for himself before he could offer sacrifices for the people, because he also sinned. So you see that the high priest under the Levitical order, sinned, just like everybody else. And it was necessary that he offer an offering for his own sin. Not so, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, because He was separate from sinners! He was holy! He was harmless! He need not daily, as those high priests, who offer up the sacrifice for his own sins *and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.* Jesus did not have to daily or annually offer sacrifices. His sacrifice of Himself was once and for all. It was not necessary that He offer a sacrifice for Himself, but once, a sacrifice for all.

Man May Sympathize – and Compromise / Still Need a Greater Priesthood

Verse 27, "Man can sympathize. This is true, but we still need a greater priesthood because even though man can sympathize, man will compromise. He will, in many ways, judge others to therefore make himself self-righteous or to give an excuse for his failing to make someone else's worse and therefore his lesser. But some men they want to take advantage to benefit from, to make their life something better and easier. Jesus is unmoved by those things. He's secure in himself and he is not in need of anything. He owns the cattle on 1,000 hills. He doesn't need offerings from us. What he wants from us is the releasing of the things that keep us on earth and bind us to this limitation. To release us into the heavenly, to see my God shall supply all of my needs."

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Psalms 50:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.*

(Hebrews 7:28 NKJV) For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

So you have a high priest, who has gone into heaven, of which the earthly tabernacle and temple was only the model of the heavenly things, as we will be finding out in the subsequent chapters

Jesus lives to make intercessor for us forever, and it is a done deal. He is alive, Jesus is not some dead historical figure that we read about in an old dusty history book, He is alive, and making intercession for us. There is no charge for no sin that Satan can throw against us, for in all cases Jesus will say "they're mine" bought and paid in full on the Cross. No one can snatch you out of His hand because He is continually on guard looking after you.

Only the Melchizedek priesthood sits and rests not like the Aaron Levitical priesthood that never rested. We can rest in the Melchizedek priesthood for He lives to make intercession for us forever more.

After Abraham met Melchizedek

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

That sums up the everlasting priesthood of Jesus Christ which is after the order of Melchizedek!

What is Your Need Today

What is your need today? Is it to be made right with God, then go to your High Priest and He make intercessor for you, He is your sin sacrifice once and for all. Is your life in some type of turmoil, then go to your High Priest and He will bring you into the presence of the Father and he will counsel you. Your High Priest is entitled to the priesthood, He has been sworn in by God Himself, and His priesthood is eternal and unchanging. So what is your need today? Bring it to your High Priest.

Communion – The New Covenant:

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

- Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs
- Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins
- Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living
- Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 8

Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

Passage: Hebrews 8:1-13

Title: Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

Summary: Chapter 8 begins and is the summation of the argument the inspired writer has been presenting by singling out the main thrust of that argument up to this point. The divine oath of Psalm 110:4 which prophesied of the establishment of an eternal Melchizedekian priesthood had now, in the lifetime of those to whom the Epistle to the Hebrews was written, been fulfilled. Such a Priest is not a figment of wishful thinking or speculation. He is now a reality. He is the believer's possession. The waiting is over. Jesus has risen and sits exalted on the right hand of God. He has completed everything necessary for the atonement of the sins of the whole human race and has sat down in God's heavenly sanctuary in the place of preference and blessing. All of God's favor and authority are His to command. He does not stand or bow in the presence of God as a sinful priest must. He is seated, because He is the Son, and His sacrifice is completed. Although He represents men who are upon the earth, He is not ministering in an earthly temple or tabernacle; He deals with spiritual realities in God's heavenly abode.

Chapter 8 is a concise summation of chapter 1-7.

(Hebrews 8:1 NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

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 - Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly

This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

- Jesus – The Majesty in the Heavens – 8:1-5
- Jesus – The Mediator – 8:6-7
- Jesus – The Author of the New Covenant – 8:8-12
- Jesus – His Selective Memory – 8:12-13

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

Let us ask God to speak His heart to us through this study today.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?

- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Jesus – The Majesty in the Heavens – 8:1-5

(Hebrews 8:1 NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Temple Center Jewish Life

The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life and religion, and the Hebrew believers who read this letter had been barred from its courts because of their faith in Jesus. Thus, they desperately need to understand they have access to a far greater Temple!

Chapter 8 begins with a summation of the argument the inspired writer has been presenting by singling out the main thrust of that argument up to this point. The divine oath of Psalm 110:4 which prophesied of the establishment of an eternal Melchizedekian priesthood had now, in the lifetime of those to whom the Epistle to the Hebrews was written, been fulfilled. Such a Priest is not a figment of wishful thinking or speculation. He is now a reality. He is the believer's possession. The waiting is over. Jesus has risen and sits exalted on the right hand of God. He has completed everything necessary for the atonement of the sins of the whole human race and has sat down in God's heavenly sanctuary in the place of preference and blessing. All of God's favor and authority are His to command. He does not stand or bow in the presence of God as a sinful priest must. He is seated, because He is the Son, and His sacrifice is completed. Although He represents men who are upon the earth, He is not ministering in an earthly temple or tabernacle; He deals with spiritual realities in God's heavenly abode.

(Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews–Jude (p. 91). World Library Press.)

Psalm 110:4 (NKJV) ⁴ The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Not Pacing / Works Complete

Verse 1 - who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens - Our High Priest is not pacing heaven arguing our case before the Father, rather he is seated, for there is nothing more to do, the price has been paid, and full access to the throne has been granted.

Things we Do / Boldly Come

The things we do; Bible Studies, prayer, missions, tithing, they are for our intimate relationship, our fellowship with God. But as for our position, children of God, it is done, it is secured through our high Priest.

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Majesty in the Heavens

Here is a beautiful passage, think on this for a moment, *who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens*. The "Majesty in the heavens". Have you looked upon your God as the "Majesty in the heavens" today. Have you considered His glory, His Kingdom, His throne. He is Our King, Royalty, He is the greatness of the universe, who calls us "His kids", we are the Kings Kids, He loves Us. The Majesty in the heavens loves you, and He has a place next to the throne waiting for you. He says "Come"

(Hebrews 8:2 NKJV) a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

(Hebrews 8:3 NKJV) For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

Not Levi / But Melchizedek

Again last study it was challenged that Jesus couldn't be a priest here on earth because He is not from the tribe of Levi, but He can because His priesthood is greater, for it is according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 8:4 NKJV) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Temple is Replica of Heaven

This is important, here we're told the Tabernacle in the wilderness and later Jerusalem's Temple were actually copies - or small-scale models of heaven itself. In the book of Revelation, the veil is peeled back and we get a peek into heaven. And we find the realities of what the OT

Temple replicated. The furniture adorning the Temple - the Ark, the altar, the lampstands, the laver - were all copies of what's now found in heaven.

The Temple of old was a shadowland of heaven.

Moses Make it Exact / The Original in Heaven

Moses told to make sure he makes the tabernacle exactly as God told him, [*\(Exodus 25:40 NKJV\) "And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.*](#)

For it was a shadow, an exact copy of the tabernacle that is in heaven. We will study all about the tabernacle in chapter 9. We should want to soak that study up next week because when we get to heaven the tabernacle is going to be there and we don't want to look like some country bumpkin on our first trip to the big city. Revelation 11 tells us there is a tabernacle in heaven [*Revelation 11:18-19 \(NKJV\)*](#) ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

On Mount Sinai, Moses was shown a "pattern" of the heavenly throne room and all of its furnishings.

How Moses was shown this heavenly pattern was a matter of great speculation among the rabbis. There's a passage in the Talmud that comments, "An ark of fire and a table of fire and a candlestick of fire came down from heaven. These Moses saw and reproduced."

Some rabbis taught that Gabriel appeared to Moses in a carpenter's apron, holding models of the sacred furniture. He then showed Moses how to build them.

The Bible doesn't give us specifics, but it's certain when Moses descended from Mount Sinai he not only held the two tablets of the Ten Commandments under one arm but a set of blueprints under the other.

The point of the author here is that Jewish priests worshipped God in a toy model - a copy of the original.

It was like a kit car. The body looks like a Ferrari, but it sits on a VW chassis and has windshield from an old Pinto. Likewise, the Temple in Jerusalem was nothing but a kit car copy of God's heavenly throne. The OT priests drove a replica. Jesus serves in the real deal!

Verse 4 tells us the temple was still standing at the time of this writing.

Moses Don't Deviate from the Instruction

Moses did not deviate from the instructions. Would you have faulted Moses if he did? Like what if he was off a foot here, two there, used this metal as compared to that? Would you have faulted him for doing so? Of course we would; hey Moses, you were given specific instructions on how to make the tabernacle! Yet here we are, image bears of God Himself, made in the image, and given instruction on how to be that, and reflect that..... model it, yet let's be honest how we can shave a foot here, replace a metal there

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

We become (and are upon salvation) the Temple/Tabernacle God dwells in:

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

I love Proverbs chapter 2, especially the calling to “wisdom”, and in Vines Dictionary here is the definition of wisdom:

“The mastery of the art of living in accordance with God's expectations”

It went on to add that this art was a process of “attainment” and not an accomplishment – to which we know it will never be fully accomplished until we reach heaven's shores. I like how Paul put it in chapter 3 of Philippians, not that he had already attained....but he was continuing to press on for the high calling of God.

Proverbs 2:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

Wisdom: - chakam (2450, חָכָם), “wise; skillful; practical.” This word plus the noun chakamah and the verb “to be wise” signify an important element of the Old Testament religious point of view. Religious experience was not a routine, a ritual, or faith experience. It was viewed as a mastery of the art of living in accordance with God's expectations. In their definition, the words “mastery” and “art” signify that wisdom was a process of attainment and not an accomplishment.

- Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 1, p. 290). T. Nelson.

Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Oh precious saint, press on, purpose to master, let us not live in anything less than “all that we can be in Him, and be like Him”. I pray you will purpose that right now, right here, and leave here with that fire and passion “to”

“The mastery of the art of living in accordance with God's expectations”

God what do you expect of me, speak it to me, and give me the power to do it. You must chose it, and then ask God to enable your choice.

Moses made it exactly as God told him it was to be, and may we do the same as image bearers.

Man Left Speechless

So the tabernacle/temple Moses was to make on earth was just a copy of the one in heaven, and the one on earth would be done away with, for it is just a copy of the real thing in heaven. Verse 19 of Revelation comes after we read in verse 18 the wrath has come, time to judge; all who will stand before God will be speechless, for there before them is the temple with the ark, all pictures of the perfect Lamb that would come. Standing before this temple in heaven will be Jesus Christ, the only maimed person in heaven, standing with pierced hands and feet, and a pierced side. All who have rejected, will have no excuse, no words to speak.

Revelation 11:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name,

small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail.

Praise God we have Our Majesty on High, and have received His gift.

Immortal Beings

Here something interesting to ponder,

“Every human being,” says C. S. Lewis, “is in the process of becoming a noble being; noble beyond imagination. Or else, alas, a vile being beyond redemption.” He exhorts us to remember that “the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.... There are no ordinary people ... It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

Lutzer, E. W. (2015). *One minute after you die*. Moody Publishers.

Today, have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin, and be your Lord and Savior, and have you are you willing to turn from your sin?

We become (and are upon salvation) the Temple/Tabernacle God dwells in:

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

God is serious about His Temple (You), and how we live, is revealing if we are His.

1 John 2:3–6 (NKJV) ³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

These readers, were being warned, don't be like those that have drifted, and went back to the Old Covenant, it can't save you, nor give you power to live today. And so too, today, the warning hold trues, maybe to some of you hearing this message, you are making up your own religion, and it is a false-religion, if you think you can mix Jesus with worldliness, and come out with holiness. Examine yourself, you immortal being, and see if you are truly in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

Jesus – The Mediator –8:6-7

(Hebrews 8:6 NKJV) But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

(Hebrews 8:7 NKJV) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

A Better Promise

Again, with a new priesthood came new and better promises. The Levites served under an inferior system. But Jesus is a priest under the New Covenant. The rules by which He operates, and the promises He's made, are far better than that of the OT priests.

If the Old Covenant had worked - and fully reconciled man to God - a New Covenant would've never been initiated.

But God did promise a New Covenant. And here the writer quotes a lengthy passage from Jeremiah 31... (verses Hebrews 8:8-10)

1st Law / 10 Commandments

The first Covenant was inadequate; there was a need for a new Covenant. The first Covenant was based on the Law, the Ten Commandments, and the all the Levitical laws. If man could keep every last one of them then he would be acceptable to God. No man could of course, so what the Law would show them was their need for a Savior, a mediator, someone to help them out of this impossible situation.

(Galatians 3:24 KJV) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

(James 2:10 NKJV) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Man's Faithfulness / God's Faithfulness

The old covenant failed because it was predicated upon man's faithfulness. The New Covenant shall stand because it's predicated upon God's faithfulness

The Mediator

Man needed a Mediator, and got one through Jesus Christ. Do you remember Job, when his buddies told him to repent of his sins before God, job said I haven't sinned, besides how could I just come before God, I need a Mediator. We are told in 1 Timothy 2, there is only one mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus. Man needed a new Covenant, one that wasn't predicated on his faithfulness, but God's.

(Job 9:33 NKJV) Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.

(1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

(1 Timothy 2:6 NKJV) who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

(Hebrews 9:15 NKJV) And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

The Spikes

Man needed a bridge to God, a Mediator between Him and God, someone who could intercede on man's behalf. With one hand Jesus took hold of a perfect, flawless God; with the other hand He took hold of sinful, fallen humanity. Spikes were driven through those hands. He died there for our sins. Through His sacrifice Jesus built a bridge for us to know God and fellowship with Him. That is why Jesus, and Jesus alone can save you today from your sin.

Remember when this was written, these Jewish reader were considering going back to the temple to worship. Remember the warning in 6:4, you can't go back, there is nothing to go back to, do you realize what you are considering. Do you think somehow, someday, you will have the power to keep all the Laws.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Today, have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin, and be your Lord and Savior, and have you are you willing to turn from your sin?

Jesus – The Author of the New Covenant – 8:8-12

(Hebrews 8:8 NKJV) Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

(Hebrews 8:9 NKJV) "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.

(Hebrews 8:10 NKJV) "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Imprint – Not Impart

The two stone tablets given to Moses were imprinted with God's Law, but they couldn't impart God's power to keep His Law.

1st Open Heart Surgery

Dr. Christian Barnard was the first surgeon to perform a human heart transplant. Once, he asked a patient if he wanted to see his old heart. Barnard took Philip Bailberg into a room and opened up a cabinet. The doctor took out a glass jar and handed Philip his old heart. For a moment, there was nothing but silence. Philip Bailberg was the first man in history to hold his own heart in his hands. He asked Dr. Barnard a few technical questions about the procedure; then Philip picked up the jar and took a last, long look at his heart. He told the doctor, "So this is my old heart that caused me so much trouble." He set it down on the counter and walked away - leaving it behind forever.

This is what happens to a person who embraces Jesus as Lord and Savior. A heart transplant occurs. God cuts out your defiant heart and replaces it with a compliant heart. You receive new desires. You get a heart that's impulse is to love God and others

↓

(Hebrews 8:11 NKJV) "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Verses 8-12 are a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34 and repeated again in Ezekiel 36:26-28.

New Covenant Coming

The old covenant failed because it was predicated upon man's faithfulness. The New Covenant shall stand because it's predicated upon God's faithfulness. God was saying the day is coming that I will bring a New Covenant, and throw away the Old one.

Jesus Told Us So

Jesus told us so also when He had the last supper with the disciples, the picture of communion. That is what communion represents to us, the New Covenant based on His faithfulness, proved and demonstrated on the Cross:

(Matthew 26:26 NKJV) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

(Matthew 26:27 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

This New Covenant will make all things New.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Written on Our Hearts / Working from Within / Changing my Desires

This new covenant is so new, that it is written upon my heart. The Ten Commandments given to Moses was given on stone tablets, the New Covenant is written on our hearts. So God now writes His Law upon my heart. Jesus is the author of this New Covenant and rather than writing with His finger on a stone, or ink on a paper, He writes this New Covenant upon our heart.

That is He is working from within! He's changing me within!

(Philippians 2:12 NKJV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

He's changing my desires! He's changing the things that I long for! And rather than longing for the things of the world, I now long for the things of the Spirit! And rather than longing for

fellowship with the world, I'm longing for fellowship with God! You see, He puts the will there! And to do—the ability then to fulfill. It is God who works in you both to will and to do, of His good pleasure. It's written in my heart, the law of the Lord.

Igor & Olga

I have two wonderful friends in Russia, Igor and Olga. They told me the story of when they first got saved. Now mind you, Russia was a godless society, it was an atheist communistic society that had cast out God from all teachings and living. When the walls came down missionaries went in; Igor and Olga were walking down the street and heard this man speaking in Russian and said let's check it out. The man was preaching the gospel. They listened and prayed to receive the Lord right there on the street. They went home that night went to bed together as they always have (they weren't married, but living together), and the next day they both looked at each other and said, something is not right. I know I am still in love with you, but last night didn't feel right. They went back and found the street preacher and told him all, and he showed them in the Word why they felt the way they did, for they had sinned against God. Even though they had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ their whole life, even though they never opened the Bible in their whole life, their sin brought guilt and shame. Why? Because God's law was written on their heart, they didn't have to read the Bible to find out what was right or wrong, because the Law in their heart and mind testified to them.

I can Attest

I can attest to the same, once I got saved, there were things in my life that I knew was wrong before I even read it in the Bible. When I would hit that passage in Scripture, I'd say I knew that was wrong. But also, there were principles that I would share with others and apply to my life, and then it would be months later I would read the Scripture that supported that - why, because the Law was already written on my heart and mind.

Why Study / Confirm / Spirit

So then why do we need to study the Word, a couple reasons. One, to confirm and encourage us in what our hearts and minds has already spoken. Secondly, and sadly, because I believe that today we have lost touch with the Spirit of God working in our hearts. We accept our sins and faults and justify them somehow, and Spirit is pushed down and away so that we can't hear Him anymore. Remember we have not yet attained!

Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A word on Counseling

Proverbs chapter 1 starts with:

Proverbs 1:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; ⁴ To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion— ⁵ A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

A word on counseling, those who are seeking counsel, the qualification of the counselor must be a person who “demonstrates they are mastering the art of living in accordance with God's expectations”; any other counsel you seek is foolishness.

The world's counsel can sound so great, or even that brother/sister in Christ can sound so wise, but if their lives are not fully living in the mastery of God's expectation, you will only receive foolishness.

I am reminded when Absalom rebelled against David, took the kingdom from David, and there was a great counselor of David who turned against David to join the rebellion of Absalom. Absalom once had great counsel for David, but now his counsel was fueled and seeded by hatred and revenge against David, and therefore his counsel to anyone is now poor counsel, because it

is fueled by the flesh. His counsel is foolishness and folly, and it ultimately leads to the death of himself and Absalom. Ahithophel's very name means "foolish and folly".

2 Samuel 15:31 (NKJV) ³¹ Then *someone* told David, saying, "Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!"

2 Samuel 16:23 (NKJV) ²³ Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Ahithophel - 302 אַחִיתּוֹפֶל [ˈAchiytophel /akh-ee-tho-fel/] n pr m. From 251 and 8602; GK 330; 20 occurrences; AV translates as "Ahithophel" 20 times. 1 a counsellor of David, grandfather of Bathsheba (cf 2Sa 11:3,.23:34) who joined Absalom in revolt against David, and committed suicide when Absalom did not heed his counsel Additional Information: Ahithophel = "my brother is foolish (folly)".

Strong, J. (1995). In *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Why are Christians, why are you, going to the counsel of the world when you have been invited to come into the presence of the God who created you and knows everything about you? The world, they are going to want to put you on drugs, make you a victim (that it isn't your sin but you are a victim, it's your parents faults, it is the environment you live, or "your" body is off so here are some drugs), and they do not have the ability to give wise counsel, because they do not have wise counsel, because they want to master the art of the world's expectation, and not master the art of living in accordance with God's expectations.

We have a High Priest, who says come, I have all the wisdom of the universe, and I have the power to overcome the flesh that dogs you. Christian, why do we need the world's wisdom!

(Hebrews 8:11 NKJV) "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

This is talking about the Kingdom Age now, when Jesus does come and establish the Kingdom. And we won't have to go around and say, oh, you need to know the Lord, brother. We'll all, you know, just love and serve the Lord in that day!

Jesus – His Selective Memory – 8:12-13

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Dwell on His Mercy / Should Be Further / Still have Problems

When I dwell on His mercifulness, how He has been so good to me, when I earned discipline He gave me mercy, when I earned rebuke He gave me love, when I poured out anger, He gave me blessings, my heart becomes broken before Him. I say You are too good to me Lord, You are so awesome. When I see that I should be further along in my Christian maturity and walk, yet He still keeps investing in me, then I saw ohh Lord how merciful You are.

(Philippians 3:13 NKJV) *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*

We still have problems. We are still living in this body of flesh. We still fall once in a while in the mud. But thank God, we don't lie there! And when we fall, He is there to pick us up. He is there to wash us off. He is there to get us on the path again. And He's there to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Remembers Our Sin No More / East-West not North-South

So God said, I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, so much so I will remember your sin no more.

(Psalms 103:11 NKJV) *For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;*

(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) **As far as the east is from the west,** *So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

(Psalms 103:13 NKJV) *As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.*

(Psalms 103:14 NKJV) *For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

God puts our sins as far from the east from the west. I'm glad He didn't say north to south because that is only 8000 miles, but you can send something east, and it will never find an end. God has the ability to forget what He chooses, and he chooses to forget our sins. The problem is we won't forget them and we carry them around and let them haunt us. If God says He forgets them, then so should we.

Get UP / Claim the New Covenant

If you have fallen then get up, confess it and move on.

(Proverbs 24:16 NIV) for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again,

If it is something you have done before you were saved, then claim the promise, claim the New Covenant

This New Covenant will make all things New.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The Rest of the Story

"The Law of the LORD is perfect," says Psalm 19:7. "It gives us new life"—and sometimes in unexpected ways.

One of the most powerful personal evangelists of the nineteenth century was "Uncle" John Vassar, who grew up in his family's brewery in Poughkeepsie, New York. Following his conversion to Christ, he abandoned beer-making for soul-winning, and on May 15, 1850 he was commissioned as an agent for the American Tract Society of New York. Vassar took off across the country, never resting in his mission of selling Christian literature and asking everyone he met about their relationship with Christ.

On one occasion, traveling in the West, he visited the home of a praying wife whose husband was an infidel. She begged for a Bible, and Vassar gave her one and went his way. He had no sooner left when the husband, coming home, saw the book and was enraged. Seizing the Bible with one hand and the ax with the other, he hurried to the woodpile where he placed it on the chopping block and hacked it crosswise in two. Returning to the house, he threw half of the destroyed Bible at his wife, saying, "As you claim a part of all the property around here, there is your share of this."

The other half he tossed into his tool shed.

Months later on a wet winter's day, the man, wanting to get away from his Christian wife, retreated to his shed. The time passed slowly, and in boredom he looked around for something to read. Thumbing through the mutilated Bible, his attention was caught by the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. He became absorbed in the parable only to discover that its ending belonged to his wife's section. He crept into the house and secretly searched for the bottom half of the book, but was unable to find where his wife had hidden it.

Finally he broke down, asked her for it, and read the story again and again. In the process he came to the heavenly Father like a penitent prodigal returning home.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son." But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. ... This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate. Luke 15:21,22,24

Morgan, R. J. (1997). On this day: 365 amazing and inspiring stories about saints, martyrs & heroes (electronic ed.). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

The Old Covenant, was only “half the story”, the New Covenant is “the rest of the story”.

(Hebrews 8:13 NKJV) In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Free to Live in the New Covenant (New Deal)

The author of Hebrews is assuring these Jewish Christians that it's no longer necessary to live under the Old Covenant. Judaism, with all its rules and rituals and requirements - it's priests and penalties - are now archaic, and out-dated with the dawning of Christianity.

God has struck a New Deal with His people. He promises to give us a new heart, a new start, and we have a new part - all we have to do is believe!

The temple was still standing, but in only a few years it would vanish away, as the Roman Army would demolish it. Only Jesus would still be standing.

No more priesthood. No more sacrifices of the priesthood. No more temple. No more holy of holies. No more taking the blood of the sacrifice and it's passed away. No more is there a necessity for it, because God has established the better covenant with us. A Covenant that stands forever because it's predicated on better promises. Our High Priest lives to make intercession for us – forever.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 9

Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

Passage: Hebrews 9:1-5

Title: Praying the Tabernacle

Summary: in our study we will look at the Tabernacle that was erected as the Children of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years. In our study we will see among many things, a beautiful outline for prayer. If you find that your prayer time often seems aimless or full of distractions, the Lord gives us a wonderful outline for wonderful prayer time with Him, as we look at the Tabernacle and all its details, and see it the center of where the High Priest would serve, who was a foreshadow of Jesus, who says come boldly to the throne of grace and ask for help in your time of need.

Today we will be studying the temple. It is important for us to have an understanding of the temple, because Jesus is our High Priest, and we therefore should understand the ministry of the High Priest in the temple, and why Jesus is superior to the Old Covenant that was centered on the temple.

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

- The Tabernacle – Its Layout – 9:1-5
- The Tabernacle – Its Mediation One Day a Year – 9:6-10
- Jesus – The More Perfect Tabernacle – 9:11-15
- Jesus – His Last Will and Testament – 9:16-28

Up Front Summary

So here is the amazing wrapping it all together before we begin, this praying, is all about getting to Him (Jesus) our High Priest who invites us into His presence, for intimacy and intercession.....

Come says the Lord, I won't turn You away,

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Tabernacle – Its Layout – 9:1-5

(Hebrews 9:1 NKJV) Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

Cross reference: Exodus 25-30

Remember, make it exactly as I told you Moses, for it is a shadow of greater things:

Hebrews 8:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

(Exodus 25:40 NKJV) “And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

(Hebrews 9:2 NKJV) For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

Courtyard / 150 - 75

The Lord instructed Moses to establish a place of meeting between Him and the people, wherein a courtyard one hundred fifty feet long and seventy-five feet wide was to be cordoned off with white linen. Outside the courtyard was the court of the Gentiles, for no non-Jew could come into the Courtyard of God.

Tabernacle / 45 – 15- 15 / Portable at First

The tabernacle was actually forty-five feet long, fifteen wide and fifteen feet tall. It was made of boards of Acacia wood that were overlaid with gold. They had silver sockets in them. They had these staves that they would put through the silver sockets, sockets that would hold the boards up in place. The tabernacle was portable because the children of Israel were moving through the wilderness. They could dismantle it and then again, put it back up. It was so constructed that it could be moved from place to place when God signified that the time had come to move on.

The Tabernacle was a tent 45 feet by 15 feet and surrounded by an enclosure 150 feet by 75 feet. When the Lord gave these dimensions to Moses on Mt. Sinai, I wonder if Moses didn't say, or at least think, “Lord, You're making a mistake. We have three million people in camp on their way to the Promised Land. This is the place we're to meet with You and worship You. Yet You're making it only 150 feet by 75 feet? Isn't that rather small?” And if indeed Moses voiced those concerns, I wonder if the Lord didn't whisper in his heart, “It will be big enough — for at any given time, not many people will choose to expend the energy, take the time, or make the effort to come and seek Me.”

Courson, Jon. Praying Thru the Tabernacle (pp. 15-16). Searchlight. Kindle Edition.

His Humanity

Four layers of different materials covered the tent from the inside to the outside. These materials were:

1. Linen of the finest quality,
2. Goat's hair covering,
3. Ram skin covering dyed red,
4. Badger, porpoise, or sea cow skin covering. The Hebrew word tahash is very difficult

to translate. Most scholars agree that it refers to the skin of some kind of aquatic animal. As the outer layer, the leather skin protected the Tabernacle tent from rain or morning dew.

This Tabernacle was very common looking from the outside, and it's covering would look so common from the outside, only those on the inside would know its glory and grandeur.

Isaiah 53:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

John 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Come to Me, He says to you today, He desires a relationship with you, He is the God-Man, who relates to you on the earthly level and heavenly.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2 Compartments / Holy Place / Menorah

Now, the tabernacle, itself, was divided into two compartments. The entrance was from the east. The first compartment that you came to, was called the Holy Place. That was thirty feet by fifteen feet.

The Golden Candlestick

In the Holy Place, as you would enter, on the left-hand side, or the south side, there would be the Menorah, the candlestick with the arms coming out from it. And that was attended to on a daily basis by the priests. It was important that they kept it burning twenty-four hours a day. And so the priests would come in. They would trim it, the wicks. They would keep the oil supplied in the Menorah so that there was a constant light in place called the Holy Place. There would be sacrifices made in the Holy Place daily.

Table of Show Bread

As you would enter into on the left would be this Menorah, on the right hand side would be a small table with twelve loaves of bread, two rows of six. This was the table of shewbread. Each loaf of bread represented a tribe of Israel, the twelve tribes. Only every week they would replace the bread and only the priest could eat that shewbread, made of fine flour.

Altar of Incense / Worship of Gods People

Then in the front would be the altar of incense, where the priests would take and offer this incense, which was representative of the worship of God's people. It was a sweet smelling savor, the prayers of God's people actually in heaven. They bring the little golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints. So it's the worship, the prayers of the saints, presented to God in a figurative form in the incense because our prayers come up to God as a sweet smelling savor.

(Hebrews 9:3 NKJV) and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,

The Holy of Holies / 15 foot cube /

Then there was this curtain that divided the room into two compartments. Within the curtain or the veil, and known as the veil of the temple. It was known as the veil of tabernacle. (It was written in Hebrew writings that the veil was 10 inches thick. They say it took dozens of priests to handle it and hang it). Within it there was the **Holy of Holies** or the Holiest of All. And the Holy of Holies was a fifteen foot cube. It was fifteen feet wide, fifteen long and fifteen feet high.

(Hebrews 9:4 NKJV) which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

Ark of Covenant / 10 Commandments / Manna / Arron's Rod

There in the center of it was the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a box. Within the box were the two tables of stone, upon which God inscribed the Ten Commandments. There was also a jar of manna. There was also the rod of Aaron that budded. When an argument came up over Aaron's qualifications and all, for the priest hood. There were others who felt that

they had a right to be priest also in offering the atonement, they brought the priest and each one laid it out before Lord one night. In the morning when they came in, Aaron's stick had blossomed and budded. It had almonds on it. Thus, it was signified that Aaron was the chosen high priest of God. So that rod was also in this box called the Ark of the Covenant. Again, it was made of Acacia wood, overlaid with gold.

(Hebrews 9:5 NKJV) and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Mercy Seat / No Light / Lit by Shekinah Glory

On top of the box was lid, called the mercy seat. It was also covered with gold. And then atop the mercy seat, there were these solid gold cherubim. This inner part of the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, had no external light, but it was lit by just the light of God's presence, called the Shekinah.

The last place in the Tabernacle is beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies wherein the visible, tangible presence of God dwelt. Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant - a two foot by three-foot box covered by the mercy seat, over which the Shekinah glory of God rested.

Only the high priest, only on the Day of Atonement, could enter the Holy of Holies. (Hebrew. Yom Kippur), a fast day on which no work was done, observed in Israel ten days after the fall new year (Lev. 23:27-32) to atone for the sins of the past year. An offering of incense was made by the high priest in the innermost chamber of the Temple, the Holy of Holies, the only time in the year he entered there. The sins of the people were symbolically placed upon the 'scapegoat,' which was driven into the wilderness. Hebrews 8-9 draw heavily on the Day of Atonement to explain Christ's sacrifice.

And if the high priest entered with any unconfessed sin, he died. But when Jesus cried, "It is finished!" the veil separating the Holy of Holies was ripped from top to bottom. It was as if God declared, "Open House! Any man, every man, can come into My presence at any time because the blood of My Son has cleansed you perfectly and completely."

That is what the picture is that the Lord paints for us, that the "mercy" seat covers the 10-Commandments, the Law, that was written against, and it is covered with and by "mercy"! [*Colossians 2:14 \(NKJV\)*](#) ¹⁴ *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

Through the Door

Mercy covers us, as we come through the "Door", the Way that has been made for us through Jesus Christ.

[*John 10:7-10 \(NKJV\)*](#) ⁷ *Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

[*John 14:6 \(NKJV\)*](#) ⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

4 Groups of People – 1 Door

Exodus 27:16 describes the gate

For the gate of the court there shall be a screen of twenty cubits, of blue and purple and scarlet material and fine twisted linen, the work of a weaver, with their four pillars and their four sockets.

- 1) The entrance or door into the outer courtyard was made of the same fabric as the door into the tabernacle itself and the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, because whether we are talking about the door into the courtyard—the place of salvation,

- 2) The door into the holy place—the place of service,
- 3) Or the door into the Holy of Holies—the place of worship, it's all the same Door. It's all through Jesus.

You see, just as the tabernacle was comprised of three sections—the outer courtyard, the holy place, and the Holy of Holies— there are three stages in our life in Christ...

It is really four if you consider those who are outside the gate, who have no desire to come in, they choose to refuse the invitation to “come in”, and so too will they be outside in eternity, the place of torment for breaking God's Holy law, the place of hell

Revelation 22:12–17 (NKJV) ¹² “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” ¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

But regarding the 3 sections of the Tabernacle, and God's people:

1. The first group is those who are inside the courtyard. They have accepted Christ, they are part of the kingdom. They realize Jesus Christ; the Lamb of God was slain for their sins. They have received His salvation, they embrace His grace.
2. The second group is those who say, “Because God has been so good to me, I want to serve Him.” So they go into the holy place and serve the showbread, which speaks of the Word of God. They teach Sunday school, lead family devotions, and share the Word with someone at work. They see the golden lamp stand and desire to let their light shine through good works (Matthew 5:16)—through helping in the nursery, through visiting people who are in the hospital, through helping those in need. They smell the incense burning and are reminded that it speaks of intercession. So they pray consistently for the lost and for their brothers and sisters, for their families and the country.
3. But the third group are those who, like the high priest himself, enter in to the Holy of Holies in order to simply spend time in the Lord's presence—to consider His character, ponder His nature, give Him praise, express their love, bring Him pleasure. I think we will be surprised in heaven when we see these certain people who would just sit quietly in church, not seeking the attention of men but fellowshiping with the Father. All too often, we don't understand this. We think if we could lead worship, preach a sermon, or be a missionary, we'd be amazing. But those things don't hold a candle to the highest level—to coming into the Presence of the Lord and worshiping Him intimately. And here's the key: the highest form of ministry, the most satisfying aspect of ministry is available to every single person right now.

Jesus gives us an example of this when He went to the home of His close friends in Bethany—the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

- 1) Lazarus is not mentioned in the Luke 10 account. He was outside, in the outer courtyard, he's saved but he is not doing any more. He was a friend of the Lord to be sure. But he was outside.
- 2) Martha was in the kitchen, or the holy place, serving. She was baking bread, doing good works, and even praying, “Lord, tell my sister to get in here and help me!”
- 3) Mary, however, was sitting at the feet of Jesus. She was in the Holy of Holies. And, of her, Jesus said, “Mary has chosen the better part” (Luke 10:42). Nothing compares to

being in the Holy of Holies, to being in the Lord's presence. It's the highest calling, the most important aspect of ministry. And it's available to every one of us.

Salvation, service, and intimacy are all entered through the same door—through Jesus' finished work on the Cross.

- 1) "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). That's the door into the courtyard.
- 2) "If any man come after Me, let him take up His cross and follow Me" (Mark 8:34). That's the door into the holy place, into service.
- 3) "Take, eat. This is My body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). That's the door into the deepest place of ministry.

Paul put it this way: "It's the love of Christ that constrains me, motivates me to be a servant of His" (2 Corinthians 5:14). And, "Even as you received Christ Jesus, so walk ye in Him" (Colossians 2:6).

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

David Wants to Build a House for the Lord

So we have seen that God told Moses to build the Tabernacle exactly as He instructed, and then after the Children came into Israel, a few hundred years later, David comes to the Lord, and says, "I want to build you a dwelling place. I want to make you a home." The Lord would answer, "David, I didn't ask for you to build me a place to dwell." But David's response in his heart is, "But I want to. It's on my heart." And the Lord would later say, "You did well, that it was in your heart." And so David is pouring his heart out to the Lord, "I want to build you a place for you to dwell." And God says, "Okay David, I'm going to honor that request." David says, "And how should I build it?" Just as Moses was told how to build it exactly. God says, "Let me tell you how then, to build this temple." And He gives David the blueprint on how to build it, to every last detail.

2 Chronicles 6:6–11 (NKJV) ⁶ Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel. ⁷ Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ⁸ But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart. ⁹ Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.' ¹⁰ So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke, and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ¹¹ And there I have put the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which He made with the children of Israel.'

1 Chronicles 28:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; ¹² and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

1 Chronicles 28:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."

And nothing changes. 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that you are the temple of the living God?" And it's us who says, "Lord, I want to build you a place. Lord, I see your glory and your love and your wonder and your awe. I want to prepare a place for you. Let me do this for you." And God says, "Okay. You did well that it's on your heart. And I will allow you to build a place, but you have to build it exactly in accordance with how I say, just like David, and just like Moses," and here we are today, "Lord, I want to build you a place."

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

And God says, "Oh, I'll honor that. And you know where I want to build that permanent place?" "Where Lord, tell us?" "I want to build it in your heart, and here's how exactly I want you to do it." And He gives us the way, the blueprint, the word of how to prepare a heart for Him to dwell in,

how to make a home for Him to be at home in. And it's a beautiful calling and it's a beautiful place, and what a high calling and what a high honor we have, that we get to make our heart because it's on our heart to have a place for God to dwell, so close and so imminent. And He says, "Here's exactly how."

And the Lord says, "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart." Some people take that, "I'm going to whip it up and try to butter you up, Lord, so that you'll give me what's on my heart. I want this, I want that." But that's not what it means. God always initiates. And whatever He would initiate for your life and my life is better than anything we could ever ask for, ever. And that's where you come to Proverbs 3:5 and 6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not in your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths." And that's a sure word, it's a true word, and it's a beautiful word.

[Psalm 37:4 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

I believe the desires of our heart, and what God puts in, stirs us up, and then we respond. And one of the greatest places that God does his work on this earth is through prayer. Prayer is where heaven and earth connect. It's the whole thing we've been studying here with the High Priest, coming in, interceding, mediating, calling us into the heavenly tabernacle. But here we have this mobile tabernacle right now, if you would. And it's a beautiful place to step in, and God puts in us, desires that we pray, a lost and dying world. We pray for missionaries, we pray for provisions, we pray for holiness, we pray for the word of God. And amazingly, as you walk through the tabernacle, you see all of that. Let's take a look at praying through the tabernacle.

The House of Prayer

My house shall be called a House of Prayer

[Isaiah 56:7 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ *Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.*"

[Matthew 21:12–13 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² *Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.* ¹³ *And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'*"

Lord Teach Us to Pray

"Lord, teach us to pray," the disciples said. It was the only recorded lesson they ever requested of Jesus. As far as we know, they never said, "Lord, teach us to preach, teach us to multiply bread, or teach us to heal." Why? I am convinced it is because they realized that everything Jesus did was the direct result of His prayer life. They would see Him slip away a great while before daybreak to pray. They knew He was on the mountain praying the night they were toiling at the oars in the storm. Even Judas Iscariot knew that when things were coming down and looking dark, he could find Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, in the place He frequently went to pray. Like the disciples, we understand the importance of prayer. Yet most of us are also very keenly aware of the impotence of prayer in our own lives. We know we ought to be people who pray. We want to be people who pray. But, all too often, we are like the disciples who, when Jesus said, "Watch and pray," fell asleep. "Lord," the disciples said, "teach us to pray." And such is the cry of our own hearts. We understand the power of prayer — and yet we struggle with prayer. I think I know why this is. The enemy would rather have us do just about anything than pray. He would rather we preach than pray. He would rather we read a good Christian book than pray. He would rather we talk to someone about spiritual things than pray because he knows prayer is where the power is. So he distracts us with seemingly good things to keep us away from the best. To counter this, the Lord showed me something that has been incredibly helpful for me. Years ago, when I was teaching through the Old Testament, He spoke to my heart in a very real way concerning the use of the Tabernacle as a pattern for prayer. (Courson)

[Luke 11:1–4 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."* ² *So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.* ³ *Give us day by day our daily bread.* ⁴ *And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."*

The Tabernacle – A model for prayer

- The Gate -The place of thanksgiving
- The Courtyard. -The place of praise
- The Brass Altar -The place of confession
- The Brass Laver -The place of meditation
- The Table of Showbread -The place of petition
- The Golden Candlestick -The place of ministry
- The Altar of Incense -The place of intercession
- The Holy of Holies -The place of worship

The Gate -The place of thanksgiving

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving...

Psalm 100:4

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

John 10:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

How are Gods people to enter the Courtyard of the Tabernacle? The bible says were to enter His gates with thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4)

THANKSGIVING — the aspect of praise that gives thanks to God for what He does for us. Thanksgiving should come from a grateful heart, and thanksgiving is required of all believers no matter how we feel.

Thanksgiving is so important. When people ask me how to find God’s will for their lives, I often answer, “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Thanksgiving is always a good place to begin. Why does God desire for us to give thanks in everything? Why does the psalmist declare that it is good to give thanks to the Lord? Because oftentimes we can find ourselves feeling heavy or weighed down, and the key to the suppression of depression is not to pop a pill, but to thank the Lord. Begin to thank the Lord for specific things. Thank Him that you’re alive, that your molecular structure is not that of a slug or a dirt clod, that you’ve been given eternal life — and watch the clouds of depression begin to part.

Paul and Silas certainly found this to be true. With beaten, bloody backs, they were tossed into a Roman prison as punishment for preaching the Gospel. Yet, as they sang songs to the Lord, as they entered His Gates with thanksgiving, it wasn’t long before they walked out of the prison gates, rejoicing (Acts 16).

The same will be true for you. The dungeon doors of depression will swing open in the midnight hour if you begin to thank God and express your gratitude to Him. You see, a grateful man will always be a great, full man. You know this to be true. The greatest, fullest people you’ve known are people who are grateful.

First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us we are to give thanks in everything. In addition to this, Ephesians 5:20 says we are to give thanks for everything. I can either choose to be depressed or to give thanks in everything and for everything. If I choose the latter, I suddenly find myself much freer to pray than when I was grumpy and glum. A good way to begin your prayer time, dear brother or sister, is to give thanks in everything and to give thanks for everything. Then watch and see how that will lubricate the wheels of prayer. (Courson)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 1:3–5 (NKJV) ³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

1 Thessalonians 1:2–7 (NKJV) ² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

The Courtyard. -The place of praise

...and into His courts with praise...Psalm 100:4

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Exodus 27:9-20 describes the courtyard

We come to the description of the linen fence which formed the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle. At one hundred cubits long by fifty cubits wide, or one hundred and fifty feet by seventy-five feet, this area was not very big considering that it was for a congregation of possibly three million people. But again, perhaps in it the Lord was saying, “At a given time, I know not many people will seek Me.”

Sixty pillars—twenty each on the north and south sides, ten on the east and west sides—kept the linen fence in place and kept out people who didn’t belong inside, those who weren’t part of the family. (hedge of protection)

After spending time thanking the Lord for what He has done, we praise Him for who He is. Again, as specifically as possible, praise God for His beauty, purity and creativity, for His mercy, grace, and love, for His faithfulness, His holiness, His kindness.

Why does God want us to praise Him? Is it because He's unsure of Himself? Is it because He's insecure? Not at all. We praise God to foster within our own hearts a spirit of expectation. Remembering the nature of our heavenly Father allows us to come to Him with great confidence.

When I begin to pour out my burdens and my questions to the Lord, if I have already exalted Him for being omnipotent and compassionate, I don't have to wonder if He is strong enough or loving enough to answer my prayers. Praising God for who He is gives me confidence that He is able to handle the burdens that are too heavy for me.

That's why we have praise and worship before we look into God's word, to prepare our hearts to receive the Word. That's why when the children of Israel ask God what tribe to send first into battle, God told them “send Judah”. Judah means praise.

The people of Judah were surrounded by the Ammonites, the Edomites, and the Moabites. The situation looked grim indeed. But Jahaziel, a prophet of God, said to Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, “Believe the word of the Lord. He will see you through.” So Jehoshaphat called for the choir, and the choir went out into the face of the battle. “Praise ye the Lord,” they sang. “His mercy endures forever.” This so confused the Ammonites, Edomites, and Moabites that they unsheathed their swords and turned their weapons upon each other. The enemy was confused and defeated not when the troops came out swinging, but when the choir came out singing (2 Chronicles 20).

We've experienced the same phenomenon, haven't we? The depression and oppression of demonic entities that surround us actually flee when we begin to praise God. Satan seems to run at the sound of praise. Why? I suggest it might be that praise reminds him of who he once was: Lucifer, the worship leader of Heaven before he rebelled and was cast out. Therefore, I wonder if when Satan and his hellish henchmen hear praise it doesn't sound to them like fingernails on a chalkboard or the drone of a dentist's drill does to us. I wonder if the sound of praise irritates Satan because it stirs within him memories of the heavenly life that was his before the dust of earth became his home. There is a difference between thanksgiving and praise. Thanksgiving thanks God for what He does for us. Praise acknowledges who He is to us. God does not need praise. It is we who need to praise so that we remember the nature of the One to whom we bring our requests. I am reminded of the strength and love of the One to whom I pray when I enter His Courts with praise. (Courson)

2 Chronicles 20:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.' ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

2 Chronicles 20:21-22 (NKJV) ²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." ²² Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

After thanking and praising God we come to the altar.

The Brass Altar -The place of confession

Leviticus 17:11 tells us

Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

John 8:34-36 (NKJV) ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls....

Exodus 27:1-2 describe the altar

"And you shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide; the altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with brass.

At seven and one-half by seven and one-half by four and one-half feet, the Altar is not only the first object one would see when entering the tabernacle, but the largest. The place where sacrifices would be made, where blood would be shed, it speaks of the Cross.

This is where the Israelites would bring their sin and trespass offerings. As they placed their hand upon the bull, goat, or lamb they brought as a sacrifice, they would confess their sin -not generically, but specifically. Then they would watch as the throat of the animal was slit and the blood drained. The animal laid upon the Brass Altar would be an unforgettable picture of the result of their sin. The bible tells us that the wages of sin are death.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In this example for prayer, the Brass Altar is the place where confession is made.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession does not mean that we promise never to sin again - because in us dwells no good thing (Romans 7:18). Therefore, to promise not to sin again is a promise that is impossible for us to keep. Confession is simply agreeing with God, saying the same thing He says.

What does God say? He says Sin is not a disease, it's not a vulnerability, it's not a weakness. It's sin. It's not borrowing - it's stealing. It's not stretching the truth - it's lying. It's not an affair – it's adultery.

Confession says, "Father, I agree with You that this thought or action is sin. It causes erosion within me. It's destructive to my family. It's harmful for the kingdom. It's not right."

Again, be specific. Don't say, "For-give me for all my sins today," or, "Forgive me for not loving the way I should." Say, "Forgive me for lying to her," or, "Forgive me for hating my neighbor. That's honest confession.

Confession doesn't bring forgiveness, because on the cross Jesus said "It is finished". He secured our salvation; He paid for our sins, past, present and future.

Confession frees us from our sin, it liberates us. Confession in our lives rolls away the stone and transforms that sin that once reeked of death into the sweet savor of life. (2 Corinthians 2:14-15) But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

The other thing confession does is it gives us an appreciation for how much God loves us. Jesus told Simon the Pharisee "the one who is forgiven much loves much."

Just remember we don't need to sin more to love more, we already sin plenty.

The Brass Laver -The place of meditation

John 15:3 tells us

[John 15:3 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Exodus 30:17-21 describes the laver,

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "You shall also make a laver of brass, with its base of brass, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. "Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the Lord. "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."

The first thing you would see when you entered the courtyard of the tabernacle was the brass altar. The second thing would be the brass laver, or basin, filled with water. The water was to provide restoration, refreshment, renewal, revival.

(John 15:3; and Ephesians 5:26 tell us).The water was the Word.

[Ephesians 5:26 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Aaron and his sons were to wash their hands and feet at, rather than in the laver by drawing water from it so that the water within would remain pure. The water of the Word remains one hundred percent pure. The Word of God is the same yesterday today and tomorrow.

After making the sacrifice (killing the animal) the priest would go to the brass laver take some water out and wash the blood that had splattered on them, and any dirt he had on him. The water for us is the Word of God, that's what we want to meditate on, Gods Word.

That's what David asked in Psalm 119:9; how can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.

[Psalm 119:9 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

That's what Paul tells us to do for our wives in Ephesians 5:26

So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

The Brass Laver is where we stop and "wash ourselves" in the Word by reflecting on one or two verses. You see, the inside of the Laver was made of the mirrors the Israelites brought with them out of Egypt (Exodus 12:36, 38:8). So, when the priest looked in the Laver, he could see his reflection and wash accordingly.

James also likens the Word to a mirror (James 1:23). As we open the Word, and allow the Lord to minister a few verses to us, and as we begin to fellowship with Him, we feel refreshed and cleansed by Him just as surely as the priests experienced refreshment and cleansing at the Laver.

[James 1:23 \(NKJV\)](#) ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

The Table of Showbread -The place of petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

[Matthew 6:11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

[John 6:48 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.

These "I AM" statements, are from Exodus where God identifies Himself as "I Am" which means in the Hebrew language, "The Becoming One", and God want to become to you all you need today. He makes the point clear to us, it is His name forever!

[Exodus 3:13-15 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.'

Exodus 25:23-30 describes the table

Now we enter the Tabernacle (the tent) the place of service. As we do we see on the right the Table of Showbread containing the twelve loaves of bread the priests would eat to satisfy their own hunger.

1 Peter 2:5 tells us we are members of the holy priesthood, so the Table of Showbread is where we pray for our daily needs.

[1 Peter 2:5 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

"Isn't that selfish? Not at all. If I'm going to be a blessing to my family at home, to the people in my fellowship, to the people in my neighborhood, to my friends at work, I need to be blessed myself. Therefore, we come boldly before the throne of God and say, "Father, I have needs."

When the Pharisees accused Jesus' disciples of breaking the Law when they plucked grain on the Sabbath (Matthew 12), Jesus said to them don't you know what the bible say's? (That was a low blow to the Pharisees) Then Jesus referred them to the account in 1 Samuel 21, where David was given bread from the Table of Showbread to sustain him as he fled from Saul. In other words, Jesus condemned neither David nor His disciples for having needs or being cognizant of their needs. Remember human need always comes before religious tradition.

The problem is not with having needs. The problem lies into whom or where we go to meet them. Our Heavenly Father knows we have need of "all these things" (Matthew 6:32), and He alone is the One who can supply them (Philippians 4:19)

[Philippians 4:19 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The Table of Showbread speaks of the desire and ability of our Heavenly Father to supply all of our needs according to His purpose.

The Golden Candlestick -The place of ministry

Matthew 5:16 tells us; Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

[Matthew 5:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

[John 8:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Exodus 25:31-40 describes the Lamp stand (The Menorah)

The second piece of furniture within the Tabernacle itself was the Golden Candlestick. As seen in Revelation 2 and 3, the Candlestick speaks of churches and ministries. Therefore, this is where we can pray for ministry: ministries we are directly part of, ministries we are familiar with, ministries we read about, or even ministries different from our background, or preference. We can pray for churches and pastors by name. We pray for foreign missions and for other organizations that preach Jesus.

Why?

When David was fighting against the Amalekites after the Ziklag attack, two hundred of his men couldn't go to the front lines. Instead, they stayed behind and guarded the supplies. When David and his men returned victorious, those who went with David into battle said, "We'll split the spoils only between us."

"Not so," David said. "The guys on the supply lines will be rewarded to the same degree that you are" (1 Samuel 30).

This means that when you pray for other ministries, by keeping the "supply lines" open, you participate in that ministry and will share in its reward when you stand before the Lord.

We can pray for ministers and ministries - locally, regionally, and internationally - Not only because without prayer their effectiveness will be diminished, but also because we'll get to share in the rewards and blessings of what the Lord does through them!

Isaiah tells us that the nation of Is-rael was to be a light to the Gentiles (Isa-iah 60: 1-2). In other words, the reason Israel was initially created was to show the whole world how to know God and how to walk with Him. So too, as believers, it is our privilege and responsibility to pray for ministries that shed light on what it means to know God and to walk with Him.

If you're looking for rewards, if you want to hear God say, "Well done," I encourage you to spend time at the Golden Candlestick. Pray for the lights of the world - not just the one you're involved in, not just those of your flavor, but for all kinds of ministries. Not only will your prayers affect the ministries you're praying for, but your prayers will also have a powerful altering effect on your own perspective about churches and denominations different than yours. And you will find yourself being enlightened and ignited in a new way in your love for all of His family, the entire Church in totality.

The Altar of Incense -The place of intercession

Matthew 5:44 tells us;

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Matthew 5:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Exodus 30:1-2 describes the Altar of Incense

"Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. "Its length shall be a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height shall be two cubits; its horns shall be of one piece with it.

The third object inside the Tabernacle was the Altar of Incense.

According to Revelation 8, the Altar of Incense speaks of intercession.

This is where we can intercede, or pray, for people. If you need to make a list and go right down it, praying for people by name. Pray for your family, your friends, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ - and for your enemies (Matthew 5:44).

Now when you pray for your "enemies," just remember the words of Jesus who said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12). How do you want people to pray for you? Do you want them to pray, "Lord, humble him today. Break him that he might see how wrong he is"? When people pray for me, I want them to say, "Lord, be merciful to Harry. Be gracious. Be kind. He's a little slow." If that's how I want to be prayed for, I need to pray for others in the same way.

Even if someone has hurt you deeply, remember even though you can't change how you feel about that person, you can change how you think about that person.

God can change your heart but He won't change your mind. However, if you change your mind, God will change your heart. How do you change your mind?

You say, "Lord, You taught me to pray for, to forgive, and to love my enemies. Therefore, I choose to do that right now. Bless him. Encourage her. Amaze them with Your grace today."

And, sure enough, as I spend time at the Altar of Incense, as I change my mind and pray for my enemies, God is faithful to change my own heart every time.

The Holy of Holies -The place of worship

(the place of intimacy)

Psalms 46:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

James 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Exodus 26:33-34

"You shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and shall bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and the veil shall serve for you as a partition between the holy place and the holy of holies.

"You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the holy of holies.

The last stop in the Tabernacle is beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies wherein the visible, tangible presence of God dwelt. Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant - a two foot by three-foot box covered by the mercy seat, over which the Shekinah glory of God rested.

Only the high priest, only on the Day of Atonement, could enter the Holy of Holies. (Hebrew. Yom Kippur), a fast day on which no work was done, observed in Israel ten days after the fall new year (Lev. 23:27-32) to atone for the sins of the past year. An offering of incense was made by the high priest in the innermost chamber of the Temple, the Holy of Holies, the only time in the year he entered there. The sins of the people were symbolically placed upon the 'scapegoat,' which was driven into the wilderness. Hebrews 8-9 draw heavily on the Day of Atonement to explain Christ's sacrifice.

And if the high priest entered with any unconfessed sin, he died. But when Jesus cried, "It is finished!" the veil separating the Holy of Holies was ripped from top to bottom. It was as if God declared, "Open House! Any man, every man, can come into My presence at any time because the blood of My Son has cleansed you perfectly and completely."

Therefore, because of the finished work of the cross, even I, sinful man that

I am, can experience the glory, the intimacy, the presence of God. This is where we worship.

How do I worship?

"Come let us worship and bow down."

"Clap your hands, all ye people." "Shout unto God with a voice of triumph- "Be still and know that I am God." "Sing praise unto the Lord and bless His name."

Singing, shouting, and silence; bowing before Him and standing in awe of Him are among the expressions God has ordered. Worship isn't about what I like. Worship is about what God desires.

So, in the Holy of Holies, I say, "Lord, I lift my hands as Your Word tells me to do. I bow my knees in adoration of You."

I lift my hands, sometimes bow my knees, sometimes lie prostrate on the floor. Sometimes I'll just sit quietly. Other times, I'll pray in the Spirit or sing loudly. In all of these ways and more, I find myself spending intimate time in the presence of God.

God says, "draw near to Me and I will draw near to you".

James 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Conclusion

So here is the amazing wrapping it all together, this praying, is all about getting to Him (Jesus) our High Priest who invites us into His presence, for intimacy and intercession..... Come says the Lord, I won't turn You away,

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Close in prayer

1) The gate-The place of thanksgiving (Jesus our door to salvation)

2) The Courtyard-The place of praise (we praise You for you alone are worthy of our praise) prepare our hearts.

3) The Brass Altar-The place of confession (we lay our sins at Your feet Jesus, confident that You have paid the price in full. Help us to turn from our evil ways, to repent of our sins.

4) The Brass Laver-The place of meditation. Father as we wash in your word, cleanse us from all unrighteousness and let us be grounded in Your Word.

5) The Table of Showbread-The place of petition. Father give us this day our daily bread, thank you that You are Jehovah Jirah our provider. May we look to You for all things.

6) The Golden Candlestick-The place of ministry, where we lift up Your church and all the needs of the body of Christ.

7) The Altar of Incense-The place of intercession, we lift up those in need and our enemies.

8) The Holy of Holies-The place of worship, where we desire to spend time with You. Thank You that we have access to Your throne at any time, for any reason, and teach us to seek You first.

Passage: The Dangerous Church (Which One do You Attend)

Title: Hebrews 9:5

Summary: We have been studying how the Old Testament Tabernacle (then thereafter the Temple) was the center of the people of God. We have seen that it was where the very presence of God was among the people. However, as we look at the Tabernacle/Temple through the scriptures we see it was at times wonderfully drawing people to the Lord, and at other times leading people away by leaders misrepresenting God. Today we have the Church, a place the presence of God desires to be among His people, but some churches dangerously misrepresent Him and lead people away, while others are “dangerous” to the gates of hell because they draw people to the Lord.... Which church do you attend? Today our passage lays out God’s model for His Church.

Outline: The Dangerous Church (Hebrews 9:5):

1. The Dangerous Church Leaders are Sanctified Before God
2. The Dangerous Church is Led by the Word of God Alone
3. The Dangerous Church Worships in the Beauty of Holiness.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

As we have studied in times past in our prophecy update, we see that one of the signs of the last days will be the weakening of the church. We read in Second Timothy chapter four, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom preach the word. Be ready in season, out of season, convince, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires. Because they have itching ears, they'll heap up for themselves teachers and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things. Endure affliction. Do the work in evangelist.

Fulfill your ministry."

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

The passage speaks of the church. What looks like the church, what people will call the church, where people will go to church, so called. And so we see it will look like something, but nobody will know that it's not what it appears to be, what it should be, because such are the signs of the times of the last days.

But likewise, a sign of the last days will be the witness of the church. That there will be a power, that there will be a people who truly are tired of itching ears. They're tired of emptiness. They're tired of smoke and mirrors, things that flash for a moment then fade and they wake up again,

empty, lonely questioning, wondering, especially as the world starts pinching into its last flow of its last days of the things we always discuss in our prophecy update that are available online.

And I believe there's the great witness for every one of us. And some will take it as a defeat right now and depressing, but I see it as one of the glories, because one of the things we've seen through this pandemic is such a picture that people are tired of fluff and they want something of substance. They want something of the weightiness. And that brings us to our passage today, as we talk of the glory of God that rested over that Ark of the Covenant there in the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies. That word glory in the Hebrew meant weighty things, things of substance. And the only thing that carries the weight in substance that never fades, never fails is the word of God. It's God himself as we've been studying through this book of Hebrews.

I'm reminded of days such as this close to 1,700 years ago, the story of 40 brave soldiers for Christ. And the story speaks that a world watches and there's a world who wants more, knows there's more. And then when the church, it's people stand up and show that there's something more, then there's a world. And there's a people that says, that's what I want. There's what's real. And there's what's full of substance.

- The following devotion is from the best-selling book *Extreme Devotion*:

Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire in A.D. 320. However, Licinius, who controlled the Eastern half of the empire, broke allegiance with the West and continued to suppress Christianity.

When Licinius demanded that every soldier under his command sacrifice to the Roman gods, the forty Christian men of the "Thundering Legion" refused. Their general, Lysias, had them whipped, torn with hooks, and then imprisoned in chains. When they still refused to bow down and give up their worship of God, he ordered them stripped of their clothing and left in the middle of a frozen lake until they relented.

A warm bath was poured for any who would give up their convictions. The men prayed together that their number would not be broken. However, as it grew dark, one could not bear the cold any longer and ran to the warm bath.

One of the guards who had watched the forty brave soldiers sing to Christ became angry that one would give in to Lysias's orders. His anger turned to conviction, and then his conviction turned to faith. He tore off his clothes and ran out on the icy lake, fulfilling their promise to be "forty brave soldiers for Christ!"

The forty died together that day. The one who gave up his faith for a warm bath also died.

We ended in verse five, as we went through that tabernacle that Moses was told to build exactly according to how God said it was to be built. Moses was also told exactly how it was to be transported when they moved. Moses was told exactly how the priesthood was to be. From the priest to the gates to the priest offering sacrifice to the priest serving inside the holy place. And to the high priest, our picture of Jesus entering into the holy holies as we'll study more next week.

But as we went behind the veil and came to the Ark of the Covenant, we ended verse five with the cherubim overshadowing the Ark. We saw inside the Ark,

- the jar of manna to remind God provides.
- We saw Aaron's staff to be reminded that the priesthood was established by God and meant to be and carried forth in the duty as prescribed by God, the staff of Aaron.
- And then lastly, we saw the two tablets of the 10 commandments that were written against us. And we saw the glory that the mercy seat covered the law that was written against us, that condemned us and sentenced us to death by the mercy of God.

We saw the sprinkling of blood that covers and sprinkled upon the mercy seat picture of the coming sacrifice of not just the lamb of God, who would be the sacrifice, but Jesus, the lamb of God who would be the high priest and make the same offer. Amazing. But as we see and walk through the Old Testament, I'm reminded of First Chronicles 13. As we're told in verse six, it says to, "Bring up from there, the Ark of God, the Lord who dwells between the cherubim where his name is proclaimed. And we see and we've studied the Ark of the Covenant, represented the presence of God among the people. We saw over the tabernacle, the fire by night and the cloud by day. We studied through the temple that David would build exactly according to the model that was given to him. And he built and gave the blueprints to his son, Solomon, to build exactly in

accordance to how God prescribed it to him. That it was the very presence of the Shikēnah glory of God, where he dwelt."

1 Chronicles 13:6 (NKJV) ⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells *between* the cherubim, where *His* name is proclaimed.

And so, I see an amazing parallel for us of when David wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem and the high failing that happened as we'll see in our story today. But then we'll see the glory because of the grace of God who's always calling us even after failings to come back to him, to do it his way. Our failings always come through the same methods, the same processes of our way, and the way we think it should be. The way we want it to be. The way our emotions lead us to be. But when they go against the word of God, they become failings. And we see this ultimate failing in our study today. But when we see doing exactly as God prescribed, called, displayed, we see that life and that more abundance. We see the victory, we see the glory, the weighty things of God.

And so we see the difference and we'll see a parallelism of how God prescribed the church to be through this illustration of the Ark of the Covenant. And we'll see the parallel, the dangerous way, the dangerous church doing it their way, not in accordance to the word of God. And the dangerous church is a threat to Satan's gates of hell that shall not prevail when the church does it the way God has prescribed.

Matthew 16:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

And the question has to be for those here today, for those who will read this, those who will hear it on the radio or through the podcast, wherever it may be, which church do you belong to? Because what God wants to show you, there's only one church to belong to. And he shows us three things of how that church should be and three things that we see are under tremendous and incredible attack before our very eyes that all lead up, all prepare the way and water the way for this, Second Timothy chapter four, "These dangerous churches with itching ears, heaping up for themselves men who will speak what the people want to hear, but not what the word of God speaks that they should hear."

1.) The Dangerous Church Leaders are Sanctified Before God

Verses 1-8, we see David, right motive in his heart, strong desire, presence of God, not far away out and the remoteness. He wanted to bring it in to the heart of the city, Jerusalem, a place that people would come, know, and see the presence of God. We see this seeming so well, seeming so right, who can question it? David didn't want the ark away from the people. He wanted the ark with the people. The remembrance of the presence of God and all of His past promises, all that He's done, all that He will do as we've studied last week. Reestablishing a tabernacle, reestablishing the ark, reestablishing the presence of God in the midst of the people. Who can argue such a sweet and passionate desire.

1 Chronicles 13:1–8 (NKJV) ¹ Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, *and* with every leader. ² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If *it seems* good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere *who are* left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites *who are* in their cities *and* their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; ³ and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." ⁴ Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. ⁵ So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim. ⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells *between* the cherubim, where *His* name is proclaimed. ⁷ So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. ⁸ Then David and all Israel played *music* before God with all *their* might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

But then in verse nine, we see things changing. As we read versus 1-8, we see celebration, we see glory, we see music. Parallel passage there in 2 Samuel, we see wondrous excitement. The people are filled with emotion and excitement. But then in verse nine, we see one of the priests put their hand out and touched the ark and God would strike him dead and die right there. And

the celebration, and the joy, and the excitement quenched in a moment. David crushed incredibly, but yet David still questions God, why he would do such a thing, and all the excitement and all of his zeal, and all of his wanting to bring the glory of God to Jerusalem. Why would God do such a thing? And it even says that David was angry with God.

1 Chronicles 13:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. ¹¹ And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. ¹² David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"

One of the words the Lord says, do not touch my glory. And that's what these men did. They inappropriately touched the glory of God that wasn't theirs to touch. They misrepresented it.

Isaiah 42:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.*

And then verse 13, 14, the ark is put on pause. The ark is put in a hold. It seems like we move on in the story, but we don't. Chapter 14 comes and brings us something wonderful and glorious from the very heart of God. That is, even in the midst of David's failure, as we'll see that it was. God still is blessing. In chapter 13, the house of Obed-Edom is blessed for the ark. So we can see that it wasn't the ark that was the problem. We see that there was something more about why, the problem. But as we see in chapter 14, David is still blessed. Victories are still being won, Philistines and enemies being defeated, even after such a horrific failing of this moving of the ark.

1 Chronicles 13:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ¹⁴ The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had.

To which I want to say to anyone, "Look at God's grace." You know the story but here we are. As if you would, we're in the midst of the story. We know how this story ends in the glory. The ark will make it, chapter 15, to Jerusalem. It will be glorious. But chapter 13, we see horrific events. Yet chapter 14, David doesn't know chapter 15's coming. But in his chapter 14 of life, God's bringing him victories. God's defeating enemies. God's showing such grace and love to David, to which I just want to say to anyone today, "This is who He is. This is who our God is." He's going to speak to David's heart of what he did wrong and David's going to repent.

1 Chronicles 14:1–17 (NKJV) ¹ Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house. ² So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His people Israel. ³ Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters. ⁴ And these are the names of his children whom he had in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ⁵ Ibhah, Elishua, Elpelet, ⁶ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁷ Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet. ⁸ Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went out against them. ⁹ Then the Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁰ And David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" The LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand." ¹¹ So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water." Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim. ¹² And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire. ¹³ Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley. ¹⁴ Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. ¹⁵ And it shall be, when you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines." ¹⁶ So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer. ¹⁷ Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

But he doesn't crush David. He doesn't walk away from David. He doesn't leave David to be devoured by his enemies. Even though at this time, David has greatly wronged and offended his God, his Lord, and so too it is with your God and Lord. He's so patient, He's so gracious. He gives time for you to think and ponder, and He doesn't crush you. He doesn't leave you. He doesn't abandon you. And He keeps doing wonderful things in your life. And I want you to know that today and that's who He is and that you can come back to Him. Because we've been studying for weeks past now, the calling for you prodigals to come home. Maybe you mishandled the way of the Lord. Maybe you disobeyed the things of God and you've made a mess, but He still says, "Come," and He still welcomes you back. He still wants to bring you into the place of the

presence of God, the Lord Most High. And I say high so that you can see Him lifted up and His glory and His heart for you.

But let the word be spoken. David's chapter 14 was because a chapter 15 was to follow and I don't ever want anyone to think that unrepented habitual sin before the holy God, is something that He winks at and something that He just glosses over. And so we have one of the beginnings of our pieces today of the dangerous churches that will teach such things, that will say such things to appease man, because they don't want to offend man with speaking the words of holiness, God's holiness and God's righteousness, and God's demand. The man comes before God robbed in righteousness.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

So chapter 15, we see David. His heart is moved. He has confidence now to move the ark again, because what we're going to see is David's going to go back and seek the Lord on how God prescribed it to be moved, and prescribed it to be touched, the way it was to be handled. Let's read versus 1-13, and there in verse 13, he says, "For, because you did not do it the first time the Lord our God broke out against us because we did not consult Him about the proper order." There's a way that God has established for His church, His presence, that's the church. It's the presence of the living God to be handled, to be ministered, to be represented.

1 Chronicles 15:1–13 (NKJV) ¹ David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. ² Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." ³ And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it. ⁴ Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites: ⁵ of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred and twenty of his brethren; ⁶ of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred and twenty of his brethren; ⁷ of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and one hundred and thirty of his brethren; ⁸ of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren; ⁹ of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren; ¹⁰ of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred and twelve of his brethren. ¹¹ And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. ¹² He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. ¹³ For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

And first, foremost we start with, look at verses 12-14 and see the requirement that God has for His church where His presence will dwell. And that He calls leaders to be sanctified. That's from the senior pastor to the associate pastors, to the elders, to all people that handle the things of God, The Ark of the Covenant if you would, a thing of God. And anyone who is to touch the things of God, to bring before the people whether it's to children's church, the door greeters, the ushers, any ministry that touches on the glory of God, this is how they're to be handled by people who sanctify and set themselves apart for God. And David says to the priest, "You did not sanctify yourself. You did not set yourself apart. You were first layer of issue and problem because you were not sanctified. You didn't do it the way God called it to be done."

1 Chronicles 15:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. ¹³ For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order." ¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

And there is that place as they were called the priesthood, how they were to bathe, what they were supposed to wear. When certain things in life happen, touching dead bodies and transmissions of bodily fluids, whatever it may be that Moses was told they were not sanctified. They had to cleanse themselves and set themselves apart. And that's what we studied last week. When we came into the tabernacle, came into the courtyard, there was the bronze laver filled with water. And it was for the priest to cleanse themselves, to wash themselves, which we saw was with the Word, before they went in and served inside the holy place. These priests did not sanctify themselves, nor did they follow the proper order of who was to handle the things of God. And so

the first thing we see, God has a calling for the sanctification. The setting apart is what it means of those who touch the things of God and represent Him.

Boy, what a day, what a time. And it doesn't matter when anyone hears this message. If you're listening to it here in 2022, or if you listen to it in 2023 or 24, 25, you don't need to know exactly what happened this week because I will tell you. What happened this week will continually be happening because it's a continual happening of moral failure by men who represent or to be the leaders who handle the things of God to lead people into the presence of God, who fall and fail miserably because of greed, of lust, of personal sin that they wink at. They think they can get away with. The only hope I have for them is that they were busted and that they will know God will not be mocked and He will not let people who represent Him continue to misrepresent Him, that He will out them and reveal them.

This week in the news, the bomb shell explosive reporting of men in high leadership under not just tens, not just hundreds, under leadership of tens of thousands, yet all the while living a lie of sexual misconduct, spiritual abuse of people. Thinking they would get away with it, twisting the scriptures, turning the victim into the guilty, abusing them and making it worse, even more so the abuse, making them have to live in their shame and their pain.

I've seen it. One of the largest church denominations, associations, it's week, after week, after week it seems, their leaders being called out and proven out of a misconduct, mishandling of funds, sexual abuse, adultery, fornication, drunkenness. Yet God was not mocked. As He says, "Be sure your sin will find you out." And I pray that they were truly born again. And this is God's busting moment on them that they'll have a chapter 15 moment and come back to the Word. But if not that they'll see that there's a danger of an unrepentant habitual lifestyle. Do not be deceived. God says will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

But first and foremost, we see first layer and that is the dangerous church is the church where the leaders are not sanctified and set apart. As they mislead people saying, "It's okay, follow me. Do what I do. Let us live in our Christian liberties. We can do all these things because God forgives. It's not legalism. It's freedom." All the while, misrepresenting people. I think of all those on watchers as David and this priest who had brought this ark the first time in properly according to the Word of God, and then not by sanctified men. And when God struck His judgment, the people had to sit and wonder, "Is God angry at us? Who can come before God? Our leaders can't bring us to God and who shall?" What kind of fear did they live in? What type of worry and torment. Who would come and find that they could come to the priesthood and ask, "How do I find God? How do I come into His presence?" When they saw that the leaders themselves were shunned and rejected by God. And so we see that today in so many churches.

But all the dangerous church, that storms, the gates of hell, are the ones where the sanctified leadership, living, set apart for God, for His glory, washed in the Word, cleansed, repentant, robed in righteousness who comes humbly before the throne of grace, who speaks God's Word because they've experienced, they believe it. Not a hypocrisy, but a demonstration of the power of God and life. And it's a twofold place, God's call and man's response. God's not going to force holiness, but the wise man, the wise woman here today is the one who seeks it. The sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled." You bring the hunger, God will bring the table, the buffet, the banquet. That He'll fill you. The hunger, the thirst, He'll fill you with His righteousness, right standing with God and right ways. Right working, right dealing, right doing, of all that God calls.

[Matthew 5:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

2.) The Dangerous Church is Led by the Word of God Alone

And then verse 15, the dangerous church that's led by sanctified leaders and led by the sanctified, set apart, Word of God, that's uncommon to anything this world has beyond the wisdom of the world. As David went back and searched the scriptures and found out the way he

did it was just filled with emotion. And the way he did it was just filled with contrast to the way God said it was to be, that the Levites would carry the ark on poles, on their shoulders, and not on carts, not on big wheels, but humbly, lowly, simply carrying.

1 Chronicles 15:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

I think we see that as one of the problems of churches today. I like what one pastor, I remember saying about this passage. He goes, "What are some of the church boards today? Nothing but a bunch of boards on big wheels or big wheels on boards." As he speaks so many churches, they go and they find men, women, people, successful in the world. Madison Avenue marketing experts, those with big pockets and influence because of the position they hold in the workplace or the community. They become board members because they're good with business. And so begins the problem that everything's run like a business, everything's moved in a way that, "How do we get people to do what we want them to do, buy what we want them to buy, apply what we want them to apply?"

1 Chronicles 13:7 (NKJV) ⁷ So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

And all the while, not humility, humbly seeking the Word of God, His way, His Word, according to what He has prescribed. Instead, it becomes a business model, a marketing venture, and those things work. But there's something that has to be done to keep them moving. And that is you can't go deep in the Word of God, because the Word of God at some point will reveal itself and show what's been done wrong and then they have to face, "What do we do now?"

I'm reminded of the story of two mountain climbers who spent hours climbing a mountain. When they reached the top, they realized they climbed a different mountain than the one they had intended to climb. Somehow, they had gotten mixed up and realized too late they were standing on top of the wrong mountain.

It makes me think, it reminds me, are we climbing the right mountain? Will we be very disappointed, at the end of our lives or the end of our ministries when we reach the summit, that all the way we had gone the wrong way, and then all the way we thought we were progressing, all the way we thought we were accomplishing and achieving something?

I'm reminded of the story speaking of the word of God. I had come back from Bible college. God had given me specific directions to head east, young man, and go tell your family on the East Coast where I'm from, what great things the Lord has done. Speaking to me, there was enough ministers of the gospel in the West Coast. Time to start planning and plowing, preparing for the move of God on the East Coast, through the teaching of God's word chapter by chapter, verse by verse, the light of the word illuminating the heart of God, where there is no shadows. There is no variances.

So as I was in my season of brokenness, as God would break me of a story for another time that I've told before, that there's a place that I knew that I would go often. It was on the water's edge of a little backwood stream there in the tropics of Florida, to which I went simply with my Bible and water. And I was just going to sit and read my word, ask the Lord to speak to me his heart, give me leading and guiding, time set apart of just fasting and prayer and the word and worship.

So shortly into my time, as I'm sitting somewhat under a tree for shade right there, along the waterway, I felt this a feeling upon me that I was being watched and stared at. And you know that feeling when you know that feeling. And so as I sat there and the feeling came upon me, I turned my head ever so slightly to my right. And literally six inches from my face was a six foot snake, black snake that was hanging itself out of the tree limb, almost suspended like only the last foot or so of its tail, holding it to the branch. And it was like the snake came alongside me and was looking down at the very same word that I was reading. It was almost to me surreal. Is this really happening right now?

And although not part of the application of the story, I want to let you know that Peter, the apostle Peter was not the only person, man that ever walked on water. As I lifted out of that chair and walked on water and we'll leave out the part with the little shriek, like a girl.

But it was as if the devil was saying to me, like he said to Eve in the garden, you don't really believe that word, do you? To which I would say, "I do, every last piece of the word and it will be the lamp unto my feet. It will guide me on the paths of righteousness. It will lead me in the ways of the Lord. It will lead me to the Lord and it will lead me with the Lord as he so desires to take me and use me for whatever his purposes may be, so that he may bring the glory from heaven down to earth to give people something of weight and substance."

And this little side note has nothing to do with anything other than the testimony of I hate snakes. When I was in college, I needed a place to stay in between semesters and I stayed with a couple guys I had met in class and the one guy had a little snake called Monty. Yeah, Monty Python. Thing had to be six inches thick and 10 feet long, but it was in an aquarium. At least, it was supposed to be in an aquarium. Until one night, I was sleeping in my bed in a hot Florida summer and we couldn't afford air conditioning as college students. So I had the window open and Monty got out of his aquarium, sniffed fresh air through that window and was making his break to be free, little did I know.

But as I woke up and I reached to the back of my head with both my hands to grab my pillow, to adjust it for better comfort, instead of grabbing a handful of pillow, I grabbed two hand full of six inch Monty Python, to which I just want to share with you that Enoch wasn't the only one who was lifted up from the earth, nor was Elijah, as I elevated off of that bed. And somehow in one leap, I made 10 feet across the room to the other side, to hit the lights to see what I thought I had felt, six inches of 10 foot of Monty Python.

So back to our point, we have to know what mountain we're climbing. And we have to know who's leading us. We have to go the way He calls us to go. And in these last days, it's going to get harder and harder, because a lot of people, they're going to want to go along with the world. They're not going to want to stand up against the cultural hot topics. They're not going to want to go up against what the government is saying. They'll go along just to comply, because they want to just stay comfortable.

And here's why I fault these priests. I can't say, "Well, you guys were just following what David said to do." He was the king, he was the political governing authority. But these priests, it was their responsibility to know what the Word of God said on how to handle this Ark and how to carry this Ark. And they didn't go seek it. They went and they just did what David, their king, the governing authority told them to do. So, the place for us, yes, obey the governing authority when it comes in terms of paying taxes. It is what it is. Sometimes you get what you voted for.

Obedying the laws of fire exits and speed limits, because sometimes those things are just good for the safety and wellbeing of all of the people. But when it comes to the things of the Lord, when it comes to the things of the spirit, there's a Word of God that is not to yield to any governing authority, and not to be told how to run the church and how to handle the things of God. The things of God and how they're to be handled are done by one way and one way only by sanctified men and leaders, men and women, who then lead by accordance to the Word of God. If this is how God says to do it and this is how we're going to do it. And no man is going to quench that.

3.) The Dangerous Church Worships in the Beauty of Holiness.

And our third point, as we see when the leaders led, sanctified, set apart, according to being led by the Word of God and what it said and how it was to be, we see success. We see the movement of the things of God, and we see the Ark making its way to Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 15:16–28 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with

resounding joy. ¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; ¹⁸ and with them their brethren of the second *rank*: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers; ¹⁹ the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze; ²⁰ Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth; ²¹ Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azariah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith; ²² Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor *in charge* of the music, because he was skillful; ²³ Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark; ²⁴ Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark. ²⁵ So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy. ²⁶ And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams. ²⁷ David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master *with* the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. ²⁸ Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.

But my third point is, and as we see the worship was worshipping the Lord, the worship was giving God glory, the worship was in a reverence to God, the worship was in response to the Word of God. And all that we saw ... Verse 29, "Give to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

1 Chronicles 16:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

And we see in this passage that the first worship service, and this is so relevant and pertinent for today, the first worship service that they did, did it look any different than this one? No. But what I want to say to you, it was a light show, and it was emotional, and everybody was just doing what was filled with emotion. But the difference with this worship service is the people had come apart, set apart. They came for the glory of God, to bring God glory. It wasn't about their emotions. It was about bringing the glory in honor due Him.

They worshiped in the beauty of holiness set apart. And we can never, as a church, worship in the beauty of holiness, apart from being set apart in holiness. A life that's set apart, saying, "It's not gonna be about my emotions, it's not gonna be about my desire. I'm gonna feel good, I'm gonna leave and I'm gonna go out and drink some beers and do some shooters, and sleep around," and whatever else may be. Overlooked for hurting the poor, walk past the widows and the orphans."

No. This worship service was different because the people came with a different heart this time, and that's what God calls for the worship in the church. Leaders that are set apart and sanctified, led by the Word, according to God's calling, and a worship service that's based on hearts that are set apart wholly onto the Lord.

Lights and music, pure emotion. And as we have said, Jesus and worldliness does not equal holiness. But what we know is holiness, reverence of the holy God, releases the spirit of God. And in his presence, his fullness of joy as we come into his presence and the spirit is released, John chapter four, Jesus said there will come a time when man will not worship on this mountain, which wasn't the place to worship, but they will worship God in spirit. And in truth worship should be spiritual, not emotional. And when it's spiritual down in the beauty of holiness, it will release the presence. It will move the presence of God amongst us.

John 4:19-24 (NKJV) ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Conclusion

How can I summarize all of this? It's how we summarize our church and its foundation, which we blade when we stay stuck to Acts 2:42 and Zachariah 4:6. We don't move off of those things.

Acts 2:42 (NKJV) ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV) ⁶ So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

But let me give you a calling. Hebrews 10:25. That's why we do our prophecy update. That's why we do communion, to remind us that He's coming back. And He says, "And while we wait, don't forsake the assembling of the brethren." But where do you assemble as brethren? Where leaders are sanctified, where the church is led by the Word, and that they worship in the beauty of holiness, not emotions and light shows.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

In verse 29, we read of David's wife and she despised him because he was dancing before the Lord. And you know what? Just accept that people, there will always be despisers when you come in and worship the Lord in spirit and truth.

1 Chronicles 15:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.

Remember, even though we know 2 Timothy 4 will be fulfilled. So too will be fulfilled that, "If I be lifted up, I'll draw all men to Myself." In any church that will lift up Jesus in spirit and truth, We'll draw men in the last days, and will be a church that is the church that's taken up in the glory and hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," because there's a people, they're tired of fluff, they're tired of emptiness, they want to see the glory of God, but they don't know that it exists, because so much that they've seen has been so misrepresented. But when you live it, they'll see it. And when they walk into a church that is those that are hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall be filled. Regardless of what the world throws at them, they'll join that song, 40 Brave Soldiers for Christ.

John 12:32 (NKJV) ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Outline: The Dangerous Church (Hebrews 9:5):

1. The Dangerous Church Leaders are Sanctified Before God
2. The Dangerous Church is Led by the Word of God Alone
3. The Dangerous Church Worships in the Beauty of Holiness.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 9:6-15

Title: Finding Your J-O-Y

Summary: According to a recent study, one in four American's say they are depressed and empty. In our study today, the Lord will speak to us about finding our J-O-Y!

- J - Jesus First
- O - Others Second
- Y - Yourself Last

Join us as we look into the Words of the Lord, that point and lead us out of darkness, and into His marvelous Light, and the place that we will find true joy, even in such a world and times we live today.

In the fiction of C.S. Lewis, "The Chronicles of Narnia," Aslan the lion, and the little girl Lucy, meet after a time apart...Aslan greets her, "Welcome, child. "Aslan, your bigger," says Lucy. "That's because you are older, little one." She asks, "Not because you are?" Aslan responds, "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger." And this is what happens as we grow in our faith - we discover our Lord Jesus is far bigger than we imagined. As we grow in Christ, our concept of His greatness and glory expands and deepens. We learn to see Him as bigger and better! This is what Hebrews is all about! The writer explains how Jesus is greater than Judaism. He wants us to be proud of Jesus! He's better than all that came before...

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

- The Tabernacle – Its Layout – 9:1-5
- The Tabernacle – Its Mediation One Day a Year – 9:6-10
- Jesus – The More Perfect Tabernacle – 9:11-15
- Jesus – His Last Will and Testament – 9:16-28

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The Tabernacle – Its Mediation One Day a Year – 9:6-10

Hebrews 9:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³ and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴ which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

(Hebrews 9:6 NKJV) Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

So verse 6 is saying that once the Tabernacle was erected and all the furnishings were in place, the priest would begin their serving (as we have studied in past studies). But, only in the first part of the Tabernacle called the Holy Place, and not the second part called the Holy of Holies.

(Hebrews 9:7 NKJV) But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

Only one man (the High Priest) could enter God's glory, and only once a year! And when he entered he didn't dare come empty-handed. He came with the blood of a sacrificial lamb...

As I was pondering on this I thought how beautiful this picture is for us as believers as we are told in 1 Peter we are part of the royal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

I love that because we have studied two lines of priesthood, through Aaron, the Levitical priesthood, and the other was the priesthood through Melchizedek, who was also the King of Salem (that is Jerusalem), and who we have seen was and is none other than Jesus Christ (see past studies).

Hebrews 7:1 (NKJV) ¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

I love as I see a glimpse we have a path to the priesthood (in a sense) as Peter tells us, and our path is a royal priesthood (thus through a King – hence King Melchizedek), that why our calling is a royal priesthood.

But, thankfully we too do not have to enter the Holy of Holies, as that is reserved for Jesus (the High Priest) to redeem man, not us, and we can rest that we don't have to be redeemer but simply the pointer to THE REDEEMER.

Psalms 49:7 (NKJV) ⁷ None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him—

John 13, Jesus washing feet. Christian find a place to serve, and serve with all your heart.

*John 13:3–7 (NKJV) ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."*

I love the ministry we "get to" be part of;

The Tabernacle – A model for serving

- The Gate / Courtyard. -The place of praise (worship ministry)
- The Brass Altar -The place of confession (counseling ministry)
- The Brass Laver -The place of meditation on Word (teaching ministry – adults/children)
- The Table of Showbread -The place of petition (meeting others needs and provisions)
- The Golden Candlestick -The place of ministry (missions & evangelism – Light of World)
- The Altar of Incense -The place of intercession (prayer ministry)

I continually, am asked about depression, and I say the way to joy is (Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last). Many people are depressed because they spend all their time thinking of themselves. We have a high calling.... Fellowshiping with God Himself, and then serving along with Him in the ministry, and when we do we find Joy!

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

John 15:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

Beloved you were made for so much more, Find your J-O-Y!

(Hebrews 9:8 NKJV) the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

(Hebrews 9:9 NKJV) It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience;

Over the years a river of blood flowed from the Jewish altar, yet all that blood gained only limited access to God. The endless repetition highlighted the inadequacy of the sacrifice.

(Hebrews 9:10 NKJV) concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

Tabernacle worship involved outward, superficial rituals regarding diet and hygiene, but it didn't affect the soul. Hand washing protects us from a virus, but it doesn't disinfect our sin or cleanse our sick soul.

People Courtyard Only / Holy Place daily by Priest to Serve

Again, the people wouldn't be allowed to go beyond that outer court. The priest would go into the Holy Place. They would go in daily as they would take care of candle stick, to make sure there was oil, the light was burning as they would change the bread on the table of shewbread and as they would offer daily the incense within this Holy Place.

Holy of Holies Once a Year / Day of Atonement

But the Holy of Holies, that innermost cubicle, was entered only one day out of the year by the high priest. No one else would go in. In Leviticus chapter 16, it tells us a little bit about the entry of the high priest on that day. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest did all of the sacrifices by himself. Thus there were somewhere around sixteen different sacrifices that he had to do. But it was the duty of the high priest only. He could not have the help of the other priests.

Bathe / Change / Confession on Bullock / Kophar

So in Numbers 29:7, The High Priest would remove his gorgeous robe, cleanse himself again in water, dress himself in the simple purity of the white linen. Then there was brought to him a bullock that he had bought with his own resources. He placed his hands on the head and standing there in the full sight of the people, he confessed his own sin and the sin of his family. He would say, oh Lord God, I have committed iniquity. I have transgressed. I have sinned, I and my house. Oh Lord, I ask Thee, cover over or atone for the iniquities, the transgressions and the sins which I have committed. There is the word atonement, it's the Hebrew word, kophar. It's to make a covering. Lord, cover over it. I and my house have sinned, even as it is written in the Law of Moses, thy servant, for in the day he will cover over and atone for you to make you clean from all of your transgressions. Before the Lord, you shall be cleansed.

2 Goats / Cast Lots / Bullock Sacrificed / Coagulate

And for the moment the bullock was left before the altar, then followed one of the unique ceremonies of the Day of the Atonement. Two goats were standing by. Beside the goats was an urn, a little bowl with two lots in it. And they would cast the lot. One lot was marked for Jehovah and the second lot was marked for Azazel, which in the King James is translated, scapegoat. The lots were drawn and laid one on the head of each animal or goat. And a tongued shaped piece of scarlet was tied to the horn of the scapegoat. And for the moment the goats were left. Then the high priest turned to the bullock, which was beside the altar, that is the bullock that he offered for his own sin. Then he killed it. Its throat was slit. The blood was caught by a priest in

the basin. The basin was kept in motion so that the blood would not coagulate, for soon it was to be used.

Coals at Altar / Into the Holy of Holies

Then came first of the great moments. The high priest took the coals from the Altar of Incense and put them in a sensor. He took the incense and put it in a special dish. Then he walked into the **Holy of Holies** to burn the incense in the very presence of God! It was laid down that he must not stay too long unless the people of Israel become terrified. The people literally watched with baited breath! When he came out of the presence of God, still alive, there was a great sigh of relief.

Pomegranates and Bells

And when he entered in, he had this robe on with pomegranates and bells around the hem of the robe, that he wore. According to tradition, he had a chain around his foot. When he would enter in, they would wait outside and as long as he was ministering inside, they could hear these little golden bells. If the bells would cease, if there would be dead silence, they would know that God did not receive their offering, that there was some flaw within it. And the high priest who had gone in to offer it, was stricken dead in the presence of the Lord, because God did not accept the offering. Thus the chain on his foot, they wouldn't dare go into get him. So they would pull him out by the chain on his foot. So the access to God, was just not available for anyone. It was only through the high priest that they could have access unto God.

Bullocks Blood / Holy of Holies / Killed Goat / Holy of Holies

And when the high priest came out from the Holy of Holies, he took the basin of the bullock's blood. He went back into the **Holy of Holies** and sprinkled it seven times up, and seven times down. Then he came out and killed the goat that was marked for Jehovah. And with its blood, he re-entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled again. Then he came out and mingled together the blood of the bullock and the goat, and seven times sprinkled the horns of the altar, the incense and the altar itself. And what remained of the blood, was laid at the foot of the altar of the burnt offering and thus the Holy of Holies and the altar were cleansed by the blood from any defilements that might be on them.

Why all this Blood?

(Hebrews 9:22 NKJV) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

God through this ceremony, through the years and years of sacrifice, is preparing the way for the perfect sacrifice. God is speaking loud and clear the seriousness of sin, it cost life, someone must die, the animal will cover your sin, but the only way it will be wiped out will be through the Son, Jesus Christ. Also, not just anybody can stroll into His presence, He is a Holy and Awesome God deserving reverence and honor. He is not the "man upstairs." He is the Lord of all Creation, Holy and Pure and is too pure to look upon or wink at sin.

Scapegoat / Hands Laid on Goat

Then came the most vivid ceremony of all! The scapegoat was brought forward. The high priest laid his hands upon it. He confessed his own sin and the sins of the people. The goat was set forth there into the desert. There in the desert the goat was released. The priest who led it out there would watch until the goat had disappeared over the hillside. Now at each high point there was a priest positioned. And when the goat finally disappeared, the priest who had taken the goat there would signal to the priest on the first high point, who would turn and signal to the priest on the second high point because they were all in view of each other. That priest would signal to the next priest, who would signal to the next priest, who would signal to the priest who was on the Mount of Olives, who would then signal to the high priest who was standing at the entrance of the tabernacle. And the signal would come and he would announce to the people, your sins are forgiven and they are departed from you! The scapegoat is a symbol of the separation of your sins. How that God not only forgives, but He separates you from the past, from the sins.

Sins Forgiven for Another Year

And so the people then would all break forth in singing the Hallel Psalms of praise. Their sins have been atoned for, for another year. And that was a ceremony that took place on an annual basis there in the tabernacle. And every year it would be repeated, year after year.

Tabernacle Place of Mediation / Through High Priest / Better Tabernacle

The tabernacle, specifically once a year, was the place of Mediation between God and the people, through the high Priest, for the covering of their sins, for that year. But God had a better way, a perfect eternal way. A High priest according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus Christ who would go into the Holy of Holies once and for all.

Jesus – The More Perfect Tabernacle – 9:11-15

(Hebrews 9:11 NKJV) But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Rather than symbolic or ceremonial, Jesus' work was eternal - dealing with "the good things to come." And spiritual - impacting our status in heaven.

(Hebrews 9:12 NKJV) Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

You measure the potency of a cleanser by the number of applications it requires. And the same was true of sacrificial blood. The OT sacrifices were repeated annually, but Jesus offered His blood once and for all. His sacrifice never has to be duplicated or reapplied. The blood of animals covered our sin for a time. They earned a temporary probation. But Jesus provides a permanent pardon.

(Hebrews 9:13 NKJV) For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

Here the author mentions Numbers 19 and the ashes of a heifer. This was the way the Old Covenant was dedicated. A red heifer was sacrificed, and its ashes mixed with water. A hyssop, or leafy twig, was then dipped into the ashy mixture, and sprinkled on all that was being dedicated - people, priest, furniture, or Tabernacle.

(Hebrews 9:14 NKJV) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Once, "Good Morning America" interviewed Albert Speer, a former Nazi. Speer was the industrial genius that kept Hitler's factories running during World War 2. He was the only one of twenty-four war criminals tried at Nuremberg to admit his guilt. Speer was sentenced and imprisoned for two decades, and was remorseful to the end. Speer said in the interview, "I was jailed 20 years. But I still carry the burden of what happened to millions of people. I can't get rid of it." Sadly, this was Albert Speer's last public statement. He could never rid himself of his guilt and shame.

None of us can! Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse the guilty conscience of an Albert Speer... or your's...

Are you still haunted by something of your past, then hang in here for the rest of this study..... but you don't have to wait to the end, hear the Words of the Lord right now....

.....how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience

Beloved, you are FORGIVEN! IT IS DONE!

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Now "serve the living God", you were made for so much more..... go find your J-O-Y (Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last!

(Hebrews 9:15 NKJV) And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Access Denied /

As long as that tabernacle stood, it was just signifying that access to the presence of God was not yet available for everyone, only for the high priest, only after the many offerings and sacrifices, did he enter in.

The High Priest and the Offering

Jesus wasn't only the High Priest that went in and made the offering, he was the offering. The perfect lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). On the Cross Jesus was Our High Priest before God, and He was the Lamb be sacrificed there at the altar.

The Veil is Torn / Come into His Presence / Full Access

Jesus brings us into the presence of the Father by tearing the Veil, and we are told it is because He is a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. It was written in Hebrew writings that the veil was 60 feet by 30 feet, and 10 inches thick. They say it took 100 priests to handle it and hang it. God is saying to the reader come into my presence, come just as you are, the veil, the door has been opened unto you to come into my presence. To the Jewish reader this was radical for their whole life God was separated from them by this veil, only the High Priest could come before Him, and that was only once a year. For many today this is still a radical statement, for they can believe or accept that they can come before God.

Matthew 27:50-52 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Boldly (full confidence) come!

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Show us the Father / The Glory of God in the Holy of Holies / The Void

"Show us the Father and it will suffice us," said Philip (see John 14:8). And he was right, for the chabod, the glory of God as seen in the Holy of Holies, is what the heart of every man craves. Man was made to fellowship with his creator. There is a void in every persons heart, God made you like that. Man will try to cram anything and everything he can in there to fill the void, but nothing ever satisfies, for only seeing and fellowship with the Father will feel that void.

John 14:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

Whole World Watching / The Garden Tomb / Forgiveness Forever

Do you see what happened concerning our High Priest? The whole world was watching—without even knowing for what they were watching. And our Great High Priest, wrapped in white linen, emerged from the Holy of Holies on Easter Sunday. The tomb was the Holy of Holies (in a sense), for when the disciples peeked in that morning, they saw a bench sprinkled with blood—His blood where His body had lain. And we are told by the Gospel writer that on either end of the bench sat an angel. Thus the picture of a blood-sprinkled mercy seat was complete. When Jesus emerged from the tomb on the third day, it was a declaration of forgiveness—not just for a year, but for eternity.

Resurrection Brings Confidence / Sacrifice Accepted

Therefore, because of the Resurrection, we are confident that our sin—whatever it is, whatever it was, whatever it will be—is forgiven, forgotten, no longer an issue. The Resurrection is crucial

because if Jesus had not come back from the dead, we would never know if the offering took. And we had no other Priest to send in.

Beautiful Message / Lamb Inspected – not the Worshipper

This is truly the better tabernacle and covenant. Here is the beautiful message here for us today. When a Jewish person went to the temple to worship, he would bring a lamb to offer on the altar. After careful examination by the priest, if the lamb was found to be without spot or blemish, the worshiper could worship confidently. You see, the priest never inspected the person—only the lamb. Satan will try to whisper in your ear, “You’re blemished. You’ve dropped the ball. You haven’t been a woman of prayer. You haven’t been a man of integrity. You can’t worship. You can’t talk to the Father. You can’t be blessed.”

[Exodus 12:3–7 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

But he’s wrong. At the temple, the priests didn’t inspect the worshiper. They inspected the lamb. The same is true of you and me. “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” declared John the Baptist—which is why three days before His crucifixion, Jesus Himself was scrutinized as the scribes and Pharisees, Sadducees, and Greeks questioned His theology, His morality, and His integrity (Matthew 22). Pilate’s declaration that he found no fault in Jesus meant He passed even their inspection perfectly.

[John 1:29 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

[1 Peter 1:19 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁹ *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

[Luke 23:4 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.”

High Priest Inspected / Rose Again / Come Boldly

And on the Day of Atonement, God inspected the High Priest, if he wasn’t acceptable, he was struck dead and the sins of the people would not be forgiven for that year. God accepted our High Priest Jesus Christ, His Son, and we know he was accepted because not only did He make the offering, was the offering, he rose again on the third day.

Therefore, we can come to the Father confidently and talk to Him freely based not upon our righteousness, but solely on the perfection of the Lamb.

Quit Your Works

(Hebrews 9:14 NKJV) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Now one of the things that these sacrifices couldn’t quite do, is that they couldn’t completely remove the sense of guilt. That animal had to be killed because of my sin. It was a sacrifice and it was bearing my sin. It died in my place. Yet, it didn’t, because you had to do it over and over again, there wasn’t the complete sense of forgiveness from the guilt. So these sacrifices of the tabernacle were a figure for the time then present in the which were offered both the gifts and the sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; [\(Psalms 103:12 NKJV\)](#) *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Our works can never justify us or bring us cleansing from our sins. Our works, according to God, are as a filthy rag in His sight! Thus, to try to offer to God our works, for an atonement of our sins is ludicrous. God has made provision through Jesus Christ that we no longer by dead works try to serve the living God.

In the fiction of C.S. Lewis, "The Chronicles of Narnia," Aslan the lion, and the little girl Lucy, meet after a time apart...Aslan greets her, "Welcome, child." "Aslan, your bigger," says Lucy. "That's because you are older, little one." She asks, "Not because you are?" Aslan responds, "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger." And this is what happens as we grow in our faith - we discover our Lord Jesus is far bigger than we imagined. As we grow in Christ, our concept of His greatness and glory expands and deepens. We learn to see Him as bigger and better! This is what Hebrews is all about! The writer explains how Jesus is greater than Judaism. He wants us to be proud of Jesus! He's better than all that came before...

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

- The Tabernacle – Its Layout – 9:1-5
- The Tabernacle – Its Mediation One Day a Year – 9:6-10
- Jesus – The More Perfect Tabernacle – 9:11-15
- Jesus – His Last Will and Testament – 9:16-28

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 9:16-28

Title: Jesus' Last Will and Testament

Summary: For a will to go into effect, the person must die. Jesus made a Last Will and Testament, it is the New Covenant that says I will take your sin upon myself, I will set you free from sin and death, I will write my Laws on your heart, and I will bring you into the Holy of Holies, into the presence of the Father. But first, in order to make it go into effect, I must die first. Jesus being the Fulfillment of the Old Testament law, when He died, the new will, the New Covenant came into effect. And when He rose again, He became the Executor of the New Testament, who, by the Holy Spirit, lives in our hearts and tells us how it is to work out in our lives. Fabulous! He not only is the Testator who gives us the New Covenant—but He is the Mediator who guides us in the New Covenant.

Today, we study more, and in some ways are recapping what we have studied as the Author wants to lock this deep into our hearts, as it is foundational for our faith, it is freeing to our fears, and it is a fire in our hearts (God Loves You!). We will recap, and then celebrate communion, doing this in remembrance of who He is and what He has done for us, and the reminder that He is coming back for His kids, and He has gone and prepares a place for us, because it is done!

John 14:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

John 19:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." ⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" ⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Our Passage Today

Hebrews 9:16-28 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." ²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. ²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Outline: Jesus – His Last Will and Testament – 9:16-28

- Someone has to Die (9:16-17)
- Without the Shedding of Blood there is No Remission of Sin (9:18-26)
- It is Appointed for Man to Die Once, and then the Judgment (9:27-28)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Someone has to Die (9:16-17)

(Hebrews 9:16 NKJV) For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

(Hebrews 9:17 NKJV) For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

The wages of sin is death, someone must die, that is the Gospel.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* ¹⁷ *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

In our society, and in heaven, the effects of the testament aren't released until the testator dies. Thus, before Jesus, God's promises were unattainable. They were tied up in probate, but now they're released to us in Christ. It's through the cross of Jesus that God's many blessings are now experienced.

Jesus' Last Will and Testament

Verse 16 – for a will to go into effect, the person must die. Jesus made a Last Will and Testament, it is the New Covenant that says I will take your sin upon myself, I will set you free sin and death, I will write my Laws on your heart, and I will bring you into the Holy of Holies, into the presence of the Father. But first, in order to make it go into effect, I must die first.

Hebrews 10:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"* ¹⁷ *then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

Jesus being the Fulfillment of the Old Testament law, when He died, the new will, the New Covenant came into effect. And when He rose again, He became the Executor of the New Testament, who, by the Holy Spirit, lives in our hearts and tells us how it is to work out in our lives. Fabulous! He not only is the Testator who gives us the New Covenant—but He is the Mediator who guides us in the New Covenant.

Whoever takes the Son

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate. The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer. On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home.

As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you." As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told everyone of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art. "I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this." As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the son.

Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture over the fireplace. A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task.

True to his word, the painting went well above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given. During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation!

Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction. According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas day, the day he had received his greatest gift. The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many claim "I have the greatest collection." The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with \$100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke. From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son. Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff."

More voices echoed in agreement. "No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?" Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell, cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!" The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son...gets it all."

Puts things into perspective doesn't it? Just as those art collectors discovered on that Christmas Day, the message is still the same: the love of a Father, a Father whose greatest joy came from His Son, who went away and gave His life rescuing others. And because of that Father's love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all. (– Unknown)

Life & Joy

Our inheritance; everlasting life and joy now and all eternity.

John 15:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

But..... Someone had to die, and it was none other than God Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ. Which bring us to our next point.

Without the Shedding of Blood there is No Remission of Sin (9:18-26)

(Hebrews 9:18 NKJV) Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.

(Hebrews 9:19 NKJV) For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

(Hebrews 9:20 NKJV) saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."

(Hebrews 9:21 NKJV) Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

(Hebrews 9:22 NKJV) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Under the Old Covenant, people and objects were purified by blood, water, or fire (Num. 31:21–24). This was, of course, ceremonial purification; it meant that the persons and objects were now acceptable to God. The purification did not alter the nature of the person or object.

Remission means "forgiveness".

Leviticus 17:11, says the Lord has given sacrificial blood to make atonement for human lives. There may be ritual cleansing that is bloodless, but there can be no forgiveness of sin without sacrificial bloodshed. These sacrifices typified the death of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who gave His life for the whole world.

Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

(Remission) ἀφεσις (ἄφεσις, 859) denotes "a release, from bondage, imprisonment, etc." (the corresponding verb is ἀφιέμι, "to send away, let go"); in Luke 4:18 it is used of "liberation" from captivity (KJV, "deliverance," RV, "release").

Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 157). T. Nelson.

We are not just forgiven, but we are released from its oppression and bondage (the word used for liberty in 4:18, same word used for remission in 9:22).

Luke 4:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty (aphesis) to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

Without shedding of blood there is no remission: This is a foundational principle of God's dealings with men. Modern people think that sin is remitted (forgiven) by time, by our good works, by our decent lives, or by simply death. But there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood, and there is no perfect forgiveness without a perfect sacrifice. Man's ways, are no way – only God's Way (His Son – Whoever takes the Son, gets it all).

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Matthew 26:26–29 (NKJV)²⁶ *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*

Mark 1:4 (NKJV)⁴ *John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*

Luke 1:77 (NKJV)⁷⁷ *To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,*

Luke 3:3 (NKJV)³ *And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,*

Luke 24:46–48 (NKJV)⁴⁶ *Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)³⁸ *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 10:43 (NKJV)⁴³ *To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."*

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)²² *And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

Hebrews 10:16–18 (NKJV)¹⁶ *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," ¹⁷ then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.*

By the way did you notice how many times repentance and remission were woven together in our verses. Repentance means to turn away, and turn towards.

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

Thomas Linacre was king's physician to Henry VII and Henry VIII of England, founder of the Royal College of Physicians, and friend of the great Renaissance thinkers Erasmus and Sir Thomas More. Late in his life, Linacre studied to be a priest and was given a copy of the Gospels to read for the first time. Linacre lived through the darkest of the church's dark hours under the papacy of Alexander VI, the Borgia pope whose bribery, corruption, incest, and murder plumbed new depths in the annals of Christian shame. Reading the Gospels for himself, Linacre was amazed and troubled. "Either these are not the Gospels," he said, "or we are not Christians."
—Os Guinness, *The Call* (Multnomah, 1998)

Someone had to die, and it was none other than God Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ, the perfect Sacrifice.

I was doing some math, and I was reminded of the Jewish historian Josephus who recorded that he estimated 256,500 lambs were slaughtered at one of the Passovers he observed. Whether that number is correct, as this is not a biblical account, has been debated. But let's just say he meant it to be how he was calculating the number of people who came to the Feast of Passover, and that he meant 256,500 people, based on 1 lamb slaughtered for every 10 people, and thus

he observed 25,650 lambs were slain. So let's just say times that number for the 3 mandatory Feast that were observed each year, and round up for the other days of the year there was animals being sacrificed, I think 100,000 sacrifices on the average is pretty fair guess on the low end. Times that by over 1,000 years of sacrifices, that is 100,000,000. That is a lot of blood. And they were and all, just a foreshadow of the final sacrifice, the once and for all sacrifice of God Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ, the God-Man, who felt every piercing of those nails, and the shame of sin, so to execute the Will and Testament, that our sin may be put into "Remission", forgiven.

[War 6.9.3 422-427 The Numbers that Gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover](#)

Cestius, desiring to inform Nero, who was inclined to condemn the nation, of the power of the city, requested the high priests to take a count, if possible, of the entire population. So these high priests did so upon the arrival of their feast which is called the Passover. On this day they slay their sacrifices from the ninth hour until the eleventh, with a company [phatria] of not less than ten belonging to every sacrifice -- for it is not lawful for them to have the feast singly by themselves -- and many of us are twenty in a company. These priests found the number of the sacrifices was two hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred; which, if we assume no more than ten feasted together, amounts to two million seven hundred thousand and two hundred persons; but this counted only those that were pure and holy, for as to those that have leprosy, or gonorrhoea, or women that have their monthly periods, or persons that are otherwise polluted, it is not lawful to be partakers of the sacrifice, nor indeed for any foreigners either who come here to worship.

Judaism/Christianity is a bloody religion. Many people have a problem with that, they want a clean and sanitized religion, not a messy, let alone bloody religion.

The shedding of Jesus' blood is God's answer to man's problem of sin. In his sermon The Blood-Shedding, Spurgeon began by presenting three fools.

- The first is a soldier wounded on the field of battle. The medic comes to the soldier, and immediately the soldier wants to know everything about the rifle and the soldier that shot him.
- The second fool is a ship captain, whose ship is about to go under in a terrible storm. The captain is not at the wheel of the ship, trying to guide it through the crashing waves; he is in his room studying charts, trying to determine where the storm came from.
- The third fool is a man who is sick and dying with sin, about to go under the waves of God's justice, yet is deeply troubled about the origin of evil.

We should look to the solution more than to the problem. (Guzik)

Someone had to die, and it was none other than God Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ, the perfect Sacrifice.

(Hebrews 9:23 NKJV) Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Moses dedicated the replica of God's throne, the Tabernacle, with the blood of bulls, but Heaven itself was dedicated with Jesus' own blood!

(Hebrews 9:24 NKJV) For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; (Hebrews 9:25 NKJV) not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another; (Hebrews 9:26 NKJV) He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

The Jewish Priest offered his sacrifice annually, but Jesus offered Himself, but once! In Revelation 5 when John visits heaven he sees "a Lamb as though it had been slain." Jesus, the Lamb of God, will bear the marks of crucifixion for all eternity.

[Revelation 5:1-7 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to

look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

On the cross all that needed to be done for our salvation was done - and it was done once and for all!

John 19:28-30 (NKJV) ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Here is something interesting, and it was recorded in the Jewish Talmud (another Jewish history book of type). This is not a biblical account, but it was recorded by the Jewish people:

The Talmud (/ˈtɑːlmʊd, -məd, ˈtæl-/; Hebrew: תלמוד Talmūd) is the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious law ...

So here is an overview, and summation of what was written (and this ties back to our study last week regarding The Day of Atonement). The Talmud says that these miracles stopped happening during the last 40 years of the Temple's existence:

- "The Sages taught: During the tenure of Shimon HaTzaddik, the lot for God always arose in the High Priest's right hand; after his death, it occurred only occasionally; but during the forty years prior to the destruction of the Second Temple, the lot for God did not arise in the High Priest's right hand at all. So too, the strip of crimson wool that was tied to the head of the goat that was sent to Azazel did not turn white, and the westernmost lamp of the candelabrum did not burn continually." - Talmud, Tractate Yoma 39b, as translated by William Davidson.

This quote from the Talmud is part of a larger discussion, about the decline of public morality, and it attributes the cessation of the miracles associated with the sin-atonement ceremony to that decline in morality. Shimon HaTzaddik lived more than 200 years before the time of Jesus and was renowned for his sense of justice and morality. It was after his time that a decline in morality is said to have happened.

In other words, the miracles associated with the sin-atonement ceremony stopped happening, completely, in or about the year 30 AD, which would either be the year, or about the year, that Jesus' death became the permanent atonement of sin. It is unclear exactly which year Jesus was crucified, but it was around 30 AD.

Regardless of whether one acknowledges that Jesus as the Messiah, the odds that these two events would happen either during the same year or near the same year is incredible.

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Someone had to die, and it was none other than God Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ, the perfect Sacrifice.

It is Appointed for Man to Die Once, and then the Judgment (9:27-28)
(Hebrews 9:27 NKJV) And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

(Hebrews 9:28 NKJV) so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

A story is told of Peter Miller, a plain Baptist preacher of Pennsylvania, in the days of the Revolutionary War. Near his church, lived a man who maligned the pastor to the last degree. The man became involved in treason and was arrested and sentenced to be hanged. The preacher started out on foot and walked the entire way to Philadelphia roughly seventy miles away to plead for the man's life. George Washington heard his plea, but he said, "No, your plea for your friend cannot be granted." "My friend!" said the preacher. "He is the worst enemy I have." "What!" said Washington, "you have walked nearly seventy miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts the matter in a different light. I will grant the pardon."

Sometimes we forget, just how offensive sin is before THE Holy God, and the price that was paid by God to redeem us, and the heart of God willing to forgive and redeem. We were enemies, we had offended, now we are befriended.... And loved eternally with an everlasting love, because of His Last Will and Testament.

Colossians 1:19–22 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Outline: Jesus – His Last Will and Testament – 9:16-28

- Someone has to Die (9:16-17)
- Without the Shedding of Blood there is No Remission of Sin (9:18-26)
- It is Appointed for Man to Die Once, and then the Judgment (9:27-28)

The Gospel

Romans 3:22 (NKJV) ²² *even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* ¹¹ *For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."* ¹² *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.* ¹³ *For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

2nd Coming

Verse 27-28 - Jesus is not coming back to bear our sin. That was done once, and once is enough. No, He's not coming back bearing a Cross. He's coming back wearing a crown. He is not coming back to die for our sin, He is coming back to get His kids, and establish His Kingdom forever.

Communion:

John 19:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ *So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.* ² *And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.* ³ *Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.* ⁴ *Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."* ⁵ *Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"* ⁶ *Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."*

John 19:17–22 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,* ¹⁸ *where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.* ¹⁹ *Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS* ²⁰ *Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.* ²¹ *Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"* ²² *Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."*

John 19:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 10

Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient

Passage: Hebrews 10:1-21

Title: There is Power at the Door

Summary: In our study today we will see Jesus fully submitting to the will of the Father, so that He might set us free. A quote from Psalm 40 is our key point in our study, and is when a bondsman loved his master so much that he went to the door of the master's home, and his ear was pierced, and a ring was put in his/her ear to symbolize the oneness of the master and the bondservant. Jesus lived to do the will of the Father, and gives us a look into the same power and freedom available to us when we go to the door, and do the same, and commit ourselves fully to whatever the will of the Father is for us.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

The Shadow of the Son (of good things to come) – 10:1-11

The Old sacrificial system was just a shadow of things to come, a picture of the real thing, Jesus Christ.

(Hebrews 10:1 NKJV) *For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.*

(Hebrews 10:2 NKJV) *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.*

(Hebrews 10:3 NKJV) *But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.*

To Make Perfect

The word perfect meant "sinless". Image Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and to hear those words, "be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect", and to know there is no way you in and of yourself can do that, and truly know that Temple sacrifices cannot make you perfect, but only for a moment cover your guilt.

Matthew 5:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Genesis 17:1 (NKJV) ¹ *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*

Temple Sacrifice Again / Remember Your Sin / Remember Your Savior

You make your way to the tabernacle, bringing your little lamb with you. Watching the blood flow as it is offered as a sacrifice, you're reminded once again that you're still a sinner, still a sinner year after year after year. When Jesus came on the scene, however, what did He say? "Do this in

remembrance of Me." In other words, He didn't say, "Remember your sin." He said, "Remember your Savior" (see Luke 22:19).

Luke 22:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

Our Sacrificial System / Remember Your Salvation – not Your Sin

The same is still true today. I have a tendency to keep returning to my own little sacrificial system, asking myself, "How long did I pray today?" or, "How many chapters have I read this year?" But, due to our inability to keep our own rules, rituals, and regulations, our promises and pledges only continually remind us that we're failures. That is why Jesus said, "I don't want you to remember your sin by continual sacrifice. I want you to remember your salvation by continual celebration." The price has been paid. The blood has been shed. The work is done. Jesus left us with Communion, not that we would say, "Oh, we're such sinners," but that we would say, "Oh, what a Savior!"

We should also I might add, celebrate the Savior's work in the other believers in our lives too.

(Hebrews 10:4 NKJV) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

(Hebrews 10:6 NKJV)

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

(Hebrews 10:7 NKJV)

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; In the volume of the book it is written of Me; To do Your will, O God.'"

Kaphar – Cover (not Remove)

It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sin, they could only cover, until the next time the person sinned, then back to the Temple to "cover" again. The Hebrew word is, *kaphar*. He shall make an atonement, in our English Bible, but in the Hebrew, he shall make a *kaphar*. And the word literally is a covering. Under the Old Testament sacrifices, their sins were covered. They were not put away. It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin. Thereby those who died under the law, the Old Testament saints, died in faith, as we will, the crossover into the next chapter. He is going to talk about all of these men of faith. They died in faith, but they didn't receive the promise because it was impossible that their sins could be put away in the sacrifices of bulls and goats. The blood of bulls and goats could not put away sin. They could only cover the sin.

Leviticus 16:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

Jesus Puts Our Sin Away

But Jesus, in His sacrifice, has put away our sins! Therefore it is not necessary for Him, every year, to be crucified. It is not necessary for His sacrifice to be made over and over again. His sacrifice is complete! It is perfect! It is sufficient! And once He gave Himself and for all! Never again will it be necessary for the Son of God to give Himself for sin! That is an accomplish

(Hebrews 10:5 NKJV) Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

Realize, spirit doesn't pierce. It doesn't bruise or bleed. Jesus needed a body. He was born to die! God became a man so He could take a nail for you!

John 4:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Septuagint

Now this is a quotation of Psalm 40:6-8. Let me read it out of Psalm and you read it out of Hebrews. You will notice a slight difference. In Psalm 40:6-8, "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo,

I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.”

Psalm 40:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. ⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book *it is* written of me. ⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart.”

Now you say, how come, when he is quoting from the Psalm, it is different from the Psalm itself? Most of the New Testament quotations from the Old Testament are taken from the Septuagint.

Two hundred and forty years before Jesus was born, when the Jews returned from their captivity, very few of them spoke Hebrew. Greek was the language of the world at that time because of Alexander the Great, spreading the Greek culture throughout the world. And so, Greek was the common language in the times of Jesus.

When they had returned from the Babylonian captivity, they actually were speaking, of course, the Babylonian language. Later, Greek became the universal language. And because the Jews could not read Hebrew, they could not read their own law. They could not read their prophets. They couldn't read the Old Testament. So they felt that they needed to give the people the Scriptures in a language that they could read. So there were seventy scholars that set upon the task of translating the Hebrew into Greek. Septuagint is the seventy, referring to the seventy scholars. And they translated the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, so that the people could read the Scriptures for themselves because they could read Greek, but they didn't know Hebrew. So possibly outside of Jesus and Paul, probably none of the other apostles even knew the Hebrew language. But because the people were acquainted with the Septuagint and knew the Greek Septuagint, most of the quotations in the New Testament come from the Greek Septuagint rather than the original Hebrew Scriptures.

Hebrew only Language to Resurrect

Hebrew is the only language in the world that was completely dead as an everyday tongue and then resurrected to become a living language after thousands of years. The "Father" of modern Hebrew, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, was devoted to restoring Hebrew for the Jewish people of our time when for centuries it was strictly a written language.

Ben-Yehuda knew that language fluency is best acquired in childhood, and thus raised his first-born son exclusively speaking Hebrew, convinced that he would become a living sign for its future revival as a living language. He believed by raising his child exclusively in Hebrew, that a national linguistic revival was possible! Ben-Yehuda's conviction and hard work inspired the usage and training of Israeli children in Hebrew at schools throughout Israel.

So it was that the children who were born in Israel and went to school, learned Hebrew first -- and since, of course, the adults didn't know Hebrew, it was the children who taught their parents.

There is a profound example in Ben-Yehuda's inspiring act of faith -- for as Yeshua said, "Unless you are changed and become like little children you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven." If you want to speak the language of Heaven, you must learn it as a child would learn! Little children are open, receptive, hungry to learn, believing, humble, and lighthearted. According to Yeshua (Jesus), these qualities are necessary for entry into our Lord's realm.

Matthew 18:3 (NKJV) ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

A Miracle

And here's another miracle. It survived 2000 years without a homeland. No nation has ever lasted longer than 200 years without a homeland. And it's not known of any language that has survived 2000 years without it being used and spoken, especially in the homeland. But as His first miracle of bringing them back into the land, after their discipline for 70 years of disobedience, his first coming, the language of the Old Testament prepared the way for the Lord. And now 2000 years later, the word of the language of the Hebrew has been brought back to life once yet again, all to

declare, again, prophecies pointing to and the fulfillment that they shall be of the second coming of Christ. Every time you see this Hebrew Bible in the Old Testament, every time you see a Scripture that parallels back to an Old Testament Hebrew writing, and every time you see the nation of Israel, it declares the promises of God and that nothing can stop them. And, therefore, all the promises of God towards you are yes and amen, whether that's

- Whether that be "I'll never leave you nor forsake you" – Hebrews 13:5
- Whether that be "He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it." – Philippians 1:6
- Whether that be "I come that they may have life and that more abundant." - John 10:10
- Whether that be "I'll write my law on their heart and their mind." – Hebrews 10:16
- Whether that be "I'll remember their sin no more." – Hebrews 10:17
- Whether that be "My God shall supply all their needs." – Philippians 4:19
- Whether that be "Where I am, you shall be, as I will come for you." – John 14:3

All these promises are yes and sure. Amen. – 2 Corinthians 1:20

In the volume of the Book – it is written of Him!

The Bondservant

So back to our passage, verse 5, now, there is really no basic change in the meaning. Words sometimes are different. Mine ear hast Thou opened is the Septuagint. A body thou has prepared me is the Hebrew in the Psalms. But they basically, mean the same thing. As you take a look at the original Hebrew and the Septuagint, basically they mean the same thing. Mine ear hast Thou opened is a reference to the committing of yourself to the will of God as a bondservant.

You remember (Exodus 21) if a person had served out his allotted time as a slave and he said, well, I like it here. I really am quite satisfied. I have no place to go. The food is good. The wages are good. I mean I have a nice place. And I have borne children and all. I would like to just stay here. The master would bring you to the doorpost of the house. He would take an awl and he would pin your earlobe to the doorpost with the awl. He would drive the awl through the lobe of your ear, up against the doorpost. And then they would put the ring in your ear. That ring was a sign that you were a slave by choice. You were submitting to the will, by choice.

Exodus 21:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' ⁶ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

So Jesus, in the ear being pierced concept, is that He willingly submitted Himself to the will of the Father, especially in going to the cross and dying for our sins. So, when He came into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me (Or you have pierced my ear, in the Hebrew): In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book as it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Verse five. "Before the piercing of the hands and the feet, there was and needed to be the piercing of the ear." And for the whole life of Jesus, he sought to do the will of the Father, the work of the Father, to please the Father, confirmed by the Father. This is my Son, who I'm well pleased. But it was there in the garden, the final demonstrating proof of the pierced ear, where Jesus would say, "Not thy will, but your will be done." We look to the cross as the place of victory and, true it was, but the victory was totally sealed in the garden and merely and greatly confirmed at the cross.

Matthew 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The picture in the world was the bondservant and the bondservant was bonded, sealed through the piercing of the ear there at the door of the master's home. And so we do unto our master, our Lord and Savior, our Father in heaven at his house, his holy tabernacle, as we go to the door and have our ear pierced. And a ring would be put in, the picture of marriage, as we've discussed. The picture of the gospel. A bride for the Son, with a ring sealed, the circle representing endless love, bound between two in a covenant agreement.

And you get to do that every day, this piercing and this life of prayer, as we're bound and knitted together with our Lord. And as Jesus, his prayer, of course, if there'd be any other way. Who wants to go through the pain and the suffering that this fallen world is filled with? Even Jesus would ask, "Is there any other way?? But the answer was, "There is no other way." And this was the will of the Father for the Son because it was his will for us to see his love and the radiance and warmth of his love. And Jesus didn't pray to change your mind, lord. He prayed for the power to fulfill the will of a father and to please the father. And so, too, our place of prayer, asking the Lord to work. But when He shows us what the direction and the will is, then we ask for the wisdom and the will to do what he's called and have the power to do it for his glory. And you'll never be disappointed, regardless, when you do that, even as hard as it may be, there's a glory that comes after submitting to the will of the Father. Jesus shows us that.

[Luke 22:41-42 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

(Hebrews 10:6 NKJV)

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

(Hebrews 10:7 NKJV)

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; In the volume of the book it is written of Me; To do Your will, O God.'

On every page of Scripture, buried in every ritual, seen in every sacrifice - there's a prophetic portrait of the person and work of Jesus. And when it came time to lay down His life, He was obedient to the will of God.

OT Types and Shadows / His-Story / Divides Time

That's quite a statement! The statement is, that the volume of the Book is written of Jesus. The Old Testament is written concerning Jesus. He is there in types, in shadows, foreshadowing Jesus. He is there in the various types, those that were types of Christ. Types of His life, types of His ministry, as well as the direct prophecies concerning Jesus. The whole Old Testament is pointing toward Jesus. All of the sacrifices were pointing toward Jesus.

I've come in the volume of the Book, it is written of Me! From Genesis through Revelation. Genesis 1 starts with, "In the beginning, God." John 1 begins with, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." The two tie perfectly together because the very word of God is God. Every word we read today, every word spoken here is the word of God. It is God. It's the heart of God and hence why the glory of God when we open the word and let it just have its way with us and let it take us away. But the book ends in Genesis and it says, "Don't add to it. Don't take it away. Just open it up and let it speak for itself."

[Genesis 1:1 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

[John 1:1 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[Revelation 22:18 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

The whole Book is really written of Jesus. They say that history is really His story! HIS STORY. Put an extra "s" in there and you've got it. History is His story! And it is interesting that He divides history and we divide time by Him. The years before He came and years since He has come. Before Christ (B.C.) and in the year of our Lord, A.D.(Anno Domini). So the division of history.

The Volume of Book – I Chose You

Verse seven. What an amazing declaration is past history to continue on that theme. God says, "I chose you. All the days, all the pieces, all the events of history, they speak that I chose you because I wanted you." I got a whole book, passage, the volume speaks of me and it all speaks of my holiness, my wonder, my glory and my purpose. Revelation 4:11. "I created you for my

good pleasure." Psalm 16:11. "And in His presence, his fullness of joy, the fellowship and the sweetness, this marriage, union and celebration that we have." Because the volume of the book all speaks of a God who wanted us, wanted you to be his. That's amazing.

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 139 speaks of the thoughts that He has towards us. "I'll number of the grains of sand on the sea and the stars in heaven." And as Daniel 12 tells us, knowledge increases in the last days. We start to see even greater how vast this universe is, how many stars there are in the sky. And we look at grains of sand and we look at stars in heaven. It all speaks of God's thoughts towards us. If I just take mankind's existence, the volume of the book covering the span of 6,000 years and soon to come to an end as he comes to get us and take us home, I calculated somewhere around 189 billion seconds of existence. And every last one of those seconds of the volume of the book written about Him and his love for me and why he came because I love you. I want you. I chose you.

Psalm 139:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

Thinking of You (Just in this Time Domain)

- 6,000 years (thousands)
- 2,190,000 days (millions)
- 52,560,000 hours (millions)
- 3,153,600,000 minutes (billions)
- 189,216,000,000 seconds (billions)

Yet He said He chose us before the foundations of the world – so that is a little more than a 189 billion (smile-smile, as that is amazing):

Ephesians 1:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

John 17:24–26 (NKJV) ²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

(Hebrews 10:8 NKJV) Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law),

(Hebrews 10:9 NKJV) then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

God took no pleasure in the blood of animals. What satisfied the Father's sense of justice was the sinless life and sacrifice of His Son.

The first sacrificial system is gone—replaced by the New Covenant.

Promissory Note / One Dollar Bill

If the Father has no pleasure in sacrifices, why did He establish the system in the first place? Simply put, the bulls and rams, goats and lambs were a promissory note....

The one-dollar bill in your pocket would be a worthless piece of paper if not for the government in Washington D.C. putting its weight behind it, guaranteeing its value. Suppose, however, you opened your great-grandmother's trunk and found stacks of thousand-dollar bills. Upon closer inspection, you see upon them the image of Jefferson Davis. Now, although an antique dealer

might buy them from you, the bills wouldn't be worth nearly their original value because the Confederate government no longer exists.

Old System – Old government / Confederate Money

The same is true of the sacrificial system. At one time, it had some weight because it represented the blood of the coming sacrificial Lamb of God. But once the new government, the New Testament, the New Covenant took effect, the sacrifices of the Old Covenant became confederate money—as worthless as any sacrifice you're presently making to try to earn God's blessing or to get Him to listen to you.

(Hebrews 10:10 NKJV) By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

(Hebrews 10:11 NKJV) And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

For a thousand years the Levitical priests had repeated the Temple rituals. For Jews in Jerusalem the sight, smells, and sounds of the Temple were as familiar as the sunrise and the sunset. Yet in just a few years after the penning of this book the Roman Legion invaded Jerusalem and burned the Temple to the ground, putting an end to the sacrifices. Following Jesus' sacrifice, God ended the Temple operation. It was now obsolete and irrelevant. Once the ultimate sacrifice was made, who needed the shadow!

By the way, this world's system is fading away, in fact someday soon according to the Volume of the Book, it will be completely destroyed. Don't put your trust in it, just as the Author told the Jewish believers not to trust in the Temple, for when it is destroyed, you will be left with nothing.

[1 John 2:15–17 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

You'll be Free

God has pleasure in only one Sacrifice. And once you see this, once it really sinks into your heart, you are free because you are in a position to receive blessing from the Father based solely upon His provision.

The Radiance of the Son (the One Sacrifice) – 10:12-21

When Jesus came the world saw the real thing. What the whole world craves to see, show us the Father and it will suffice us, we will be satisfied. We see clearly the heart of the Father, willing to give His only begotten Son.

[John 14:8–9 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

(Hebrews 10:12 NKJV) But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

Once Jesus completed the job of atoning for our sin, He sat down at God's right hand - a position of honor. And today, He's there, waiting for the time when God defeats His enemies, or puts them under His feet. It's interesting, the OT priest never sat down.

There was furniture in the OT Holy Place, but no chair. The priest was in perpetual motion, always on his feet, for under the Law his work was never finished. Yet when Jesus offered His sacrifice, He "sat down at the right hand of God." Jesus completed the work of redemption once and for all - a job well done! That's when He sat next to the Father to await His exaltation.

(Hebrews 10:13 NKJV) from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

Sat Down - Jesus isn't standing or pacing, running or fretting. He's totally at rest concerning you.

Satan is a Squatter

from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. In Psalm 110, he is quoting. So He is just sitting there at the right hand—forever! He is waiting now until the enemies become His footstool. Right now, the earth, the world is under the power of Satan. Satan rules in this evil world. Paul said at one time you lived after the things of the world. One time you were just meandering according to the course of this world, according to prince of the power of the air, that even now is working in the children of disobedience, among whom we all once lived. Recognizing that the world is under Satan's influence, under Satan's power. It's very, very obvious today, when you hear the popular music, when you hear what is going on in the world today. It's obvious that Satan is in control.

But one day, Satan's rule is going to come to an end. But as men today are rebelling against God's authority more and more, the world is ripening now for the judgment of God. God is very patient, very long-suffering, but right now the world is ripening for the judgment of God. Once God judges the world in what we call the Great Tribulation, then God will subdue all of the rebellion and the enemies of Jesus. And Jesus will come to reign over the earth. And He will establish His kingdom of righteousness and joy and peace. And when the Lord, who is our life, shall appear to reign, then shall we also appear with Him in glory to reign with Him as kings and priests throughout the millennium of His kingdom reign.

Right now, He made the sacrifice, and He is just there—waiting, until the Father has accomplished His purposes and subdued the enemy. The Lord will then come to reign, expecting until His enemies are made His footstool.

Verse 13. He made his enemies foot stools. It just amazes me as I think that I was once an enemy. It amazes me to think even after redemption, though a son, I could still be offensive. Not an enemy, but surely hurtful in the heart of God. So I spent time with my son this week and just enjoyed his presence and looking at his face and watching him grow from a child into a man, looking into his eyes, warmed in my heart by him.

I said to myself, "I could not imagine giving him as a sacrifice, especially with the knowing how some would trample him underfoot or even receive it, say, 'Thanks,' then go on with total disregard and not living a life of glory, not living a life of let your will be done." That's amazing. We need to always keep that in the context of how great our sin was, how great sin is and how great the price was and how great the sacrifice that covered it. It's good to come here and do this in remembrance to remind us where we've been, who we once were, where we are secured and where we go to be with him. That's amazing grace.

Make the enemies the foot stool. That's the picture of a conquering general with his foot on the neck of his enemy showing total victory fitting as it's a declaration back to Genesis three, the first gospel mentioned in the Bible, protoevangela is what it's called, first mention of the gospel. And it speaks that the serpent which snipped your heel, the heel of your foot, but you shall crush his head. All his power will be put under foot. And on the cross, Satan snipped the heel of the God man but on the third day the enemy's neck was underfoot and victory has been made. But now all we see is Satan is a squatter. His time is short.

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Satan on borrowed time. He knows it. God's going to wrap this all up. Why does He wait? Because of grace. Because when He calls it, man will not come through the simplicity of grace today who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and savior, that grace will come with a period of tribulation that will be hell on earth. Even though saved, not removed by it. What we see here

today is nothing compared to what is to come. You don't want to be here for that. Give your life to Christ.

Which by the way, on that note, in the tribulation, the anti-Christ at the point where he has now turned himself over to the devil and fully possessed and owned by the devil, he will be the devil himself incarnate, will go into this temple that's re built in the last days as prophesied. And at the midpoint he'll go in and he'll want to be declared God because he comes in to make a sacrifice here in this very temple. No doubt, the very holy holies because what he wants to do is everything just a mimic and a copy of the one true God. And so he'll copy that. He'll mimic that but he will find that that will be the ultimate revelation and he will be exposed for who he is before the Jewish people and it will turn into the great revival of the nation of Israel.

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

(Hebrews 10:14 NKJV) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

(Hebrews 10:15 NKJV) But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

(Hebrews 10:16 NKJV) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

(Hebrews 10:17 NKJV) then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Verse 17 reflects me into Romans 17 of chapter 10, two great passages that go 10, 17 and both of them are by faith. We have to by faith believe that our sins are forgiven and He remembers them no more and that we can be free of them.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Hebrews 10:18 NKJV) Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Emancipation Proclamation

How fitting a passage before us today on June 19, what's known in history books as Juneteenth, the combination of the month and the day 19th. Juneteenth. And what's the historical significance of it was the Emancipation Proclamation that was declared that, in 1865, on that day, the Union Army walked in with the Proclamation to let it be known that slavery was abolished and every slave was free. The end of the oppression, the hatred, the mistreatment of God's creation. What's significant about that is the Emancipation Proclamation was two years before that and yet the people in Texas, the furthest corner of the country at that time, were never told that you're free. Man continually oppressed, man continually kept them in bondage because they would not declare the truth, but the truth set them free. The price that was paid, a bloody civil war, 750,000 countrymen, half fighting for the oppression, the other half fighting for the freedom. A long bloody war, but in the end, the declaration, "You're free. Set free. Free indeed." And so we see what a picture. How many people continually held in their bondage and their slavery and their oppression because the word doesn't come to them that you can be free, the battle's been won, the victory's been secured. With much shedding of blood, a sacrifice made to set them free, to set you free. And yet so often the world continues to live in its oppression as no one will declare, "There's nothing more to be done. The battle's secure." Regardless, man's lies. There's a declaration that's been made. And Jesus made it from the cross. "It is done. You are free. With the shedding of blood, there is the remission of sin. Go and live accordingly."

And may I say, just as in the Civil War, the sacrifice that was paid for the freedom, what an insult to all the families who gave up loved ones, who fought for the freedom and only to find that the people didn't enter in and receive the freedom, that they were still held in bondage by a great liar. What an insult and an offense that the sacrifice was not told to the world and what a calling for the church and what a calling for us. May we not trample the sacrifice, keep it to ourselves, keep

it away from those who could benefit and will benefit from the freedom. May we be a people who live in it, declare it, at whatever the price and whatever the cost.

And what is the work of God? Because the amen of being set free. In that proclamation on June 19, they were told, "You're free. Now you go work and you get paid your wages. You're worthy of them. And let no one withhold your wages. Reap what you sweat." And for us, all the work was done by Jesus Christ. And he says, "This is the work of God. That you believe on Him, whom he sent." And so our work now is not work for salvation, but it's work to reap the rewards that come with the proclamation of the emancipation. "Set free. Free indeed."

(Hebrews 10:19 NKJV) Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Boldly Come

Verse 16 of Hebrews four speaks the same word again, to boldly come to the throne of grace that we may find help and favor in our time of need. That's where we'll see the Father, the warmth of the Son and our hearts will be drawn. Verse 12 of that same chapter there in Hebrews four says the Word, it reveals, it exposes, but it's the only way to show the truth. It comes and brings the declaration of the emancipation of the proclamation that we're set free, that we can live in newness of life because we have a high priest who made the perfect sacrifice once and for all and it is done.

[Hebrews 4:11–16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account. ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 10:20 NKJV) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

The Temple had a veil of separation. It was a huge curtain that hung in front of the Holy of Holies. It was a reminder that God was off-limits to mortal men. Yet the moment Jesus died, Matthew tells us the veil tore from top to bottom. The way to God is now open. And thus today, the veil between God and man is the torn body of Jesus. You come to God not by jumping through religious hoops - but over His dead body! Believe in Jesus, and the door to God opens.

(Hebrews 10:21 NKJV) and having a High Priest over the house of God,

His last Will & Testament / Blot out Our Lawlessness

His last will and testament, I will write them on your hearts and minds. Christ in you, the hope of glory - the promise of glory (Col 1:27). I'll write my laws on your heart, they will be etched in your flesh for eternity, but as for your lawlessness, I will blot them out with a permanent marker, never to be seen again, for I can do that, for I am the Lord your God. You will be perfect.

That's you. He has perfected you forever because the work of salvation is complete.

Come into Holies / Ark of Failures / Covered with the Mercy Seat

Because the veil was rent, we can come into the Holy of Holies. In the Holy of Holies stood the ark of the covenant. And in the ark of the covenant are the Ten Commandments that we've broken, Aaron's rod that budded as a sign to a people who chafed under God's leadership, and a pot of manna given to a people who grumbled about God's provision. In other words, the ark held reminders of failure. But guess what. Covering the ark—hiding the broken commandments, the rod of rebellion, the manna of unthankfulness—was the mercy seat. No wonder Jesus said, "Go

your way and learn of this that you might learn mercy” (see [Matthew 9:13](#)). The one course of education prescribed by Jesus is mercy because it is at the mercy seat that God meets us.

We have a High Priest interceding for us not with words on His lips, but through the wounds of His flesh.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

[Hebrews 4:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

[Hebrews 4:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25

Title: Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25)

Summary: After nearly ten chapters of all that God is and all that God has done for us, we now begin in our study of this epistle, how we should respond to so great a salvation. We would think it be something complicated and extensive, but our Lord keeps it simple, in fact just 3 things..... but He wants us to be very purposeful and intentional regarding them. Join us as God opens His Word, and thus His heart, to us yet again.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² **let us** draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ **Let us** hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And **let us** consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Philip said to Jesus "show us the Father", to which Jesus said "He who has seen Me, has seen the Father". What an amazing journey we have been on in the last 4 months, We have seen the heart of God, the very heart of God towards us who believe, and His great love for us. We have been created to "See God", and meet with Him, for intimacy and oneness. Let's recap where we have been and "All that we have Seen" regarding our God.

John 14:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

about the superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Better

The word *better* is used thirteen times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation over the Hebrew system of religion. Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4). He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19) because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Perfect

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen times. It means a perfect standing before God. This perfection could never be accomplished by the levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11) or by the Law (Heb. 7: 19), nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1). Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Eternal

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - . Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12) and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8) and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21). "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Combine all 3

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations – cross – right hand

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest

Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Today's Study

For almost 10 chapters we have been looking at “doctrine”, the teaching and instructions of God, who He is and what He has done. And after we study doctrine, we move into study “duty”, what we are to do based on what we have learned regarding God and His ways. Now we are all familiar with chapter 11, the Hall of Faith, and that is a clear change in this Epistle, bringing us into “duty”, and how we are to exercise faith and the likes as we look at these Heroes of the Faith. And then chapters 12-13, we are given more practical duty of what we are to do and be as sons and daughters of God, based on all the teachings of chapters 1-10, but it is very subtle, that here in verse 10:19, we begin the “duty”, and are given three very “intentional” things we should be doing, based on what we have been taught and shown in these past chapters.

Christians should live lives that are characterized by three activities:

1. prayer (10:22),
2. perseverance (10:23),
3. and encouragement (10:24, 25).

These three activities are enjoined on Christians by three cohortative subjunctive verb forms which appear in our English text following the words “let us.” If you were to look in the original language, the word “let us” is not in the text, as it is tied in with the verb of the word that follows (ie: draw, hold, consider).

- Cohortative (expressing exhortation)
- Subjunctive (should be intentional)
- Verb (action, a movement)

Thus, an encouragement to take intentional actions (in this case – a plural form, as the author calls us to join him to do this together)

*Hebrews 10:22 (NKJV)*²² *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)*²³ *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

*Hebrews 10:24 (NKJV)*²⁴ *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,*

The first mention of this form of a verb can be found in Genesis (which just note it is in the plural form “us”). God was very intentional on His action to create us.

*Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)*²⁶ *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

And here, in our passage before, we are given a very clear encouragement, on three things we are to be very intentional with, as we begin our study on “Christian duty”, faith in action,

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- Prayer (the Upward) – Hebrews 10:19-22
- Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) – Hebrews 10:23
- Provoking One Another (the Outward) – Hebrews 10:24-25

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)*¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- **Prayer (the Upward) – Hebrews 10:19-22**

(Hebrews 10:19 NKJV) Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

(Hebrews 10:20 NKJV) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

(Hebrews 10:21 NKJV) and having a High Priest over the house of God,

(Hebrews 10:22 NKJV) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

By the verb *proserchōmetha*, believers are entreated to keep on coming near to God in prayer. A believers' life should be consistently characterized by doing this. This is a high privilege. Unlike those under the Levitical system whose high priestly representatives could only have direct contact with God once a year on the annual Day of Atonement, believers through Jesus Christ have access to God at any time.

Christians should make the most of their unique opportunity, because they have a cleansing that is both ceremonial (in the ordinance of baptism) and actual (in the removal of the moral guilt of their consciences). Since they are thus cleansed by Christ's blood, they can come to God with a genuinely open heart, with no pretense, absolutely confident that He will welcome them and hear them because they have trusted His Son Jesus Christ as their atoning sacrifice.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews–Jude (pp. 127–129). World Library Press.

Another Let Us

We saw this same Let Us, verb form (*proserchōmetha*) back one of our anchor verses here at the church, the call to boldly come before the throne in prayer

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Come in full Assurance / Come in Truth

Come with full assurance, and Let us draw near with a true heart—not a pure heart, or a clean heart, but a *true* heart, saying, “I know I’m a sinner. But I also know what Jesus did is sufficient.” What Jesus did is the Truth, and that truth sets me free. So I come boldly to Him, even if I haven’t prayed in ten minutes, ten days, or ten years. Once I come with a *true* heart, the effectiveness of the sacrifice of Calvary takes effect.

How Far do You Go Back

And based on the cross, the question should be considered, how far back do we go in the confession of sins when we come to salvation? So how far back do we go after we see the Messiah and we have sin of our past? How far back do we go? I say, look at the thief on the cross. That's as far as he went back. The only requirement to cover our past sin is the lamb that was slain upon the cross. Jesus says in this new covenant, their sin and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. So when the thoughts come, it's the world, the devil, or very flesh that stirs up our past. Maybe you want to talk to the Lord about these things. He'll say okay, I don't know what you're talking about, but here I am. I'll talk to you about anything you want to talk about and we're forgiven.

Luke 23:41–43 (NKJV) ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

I know this sounds crazy, but there are times I'm thankful to the accuser of the brethren. If you would hear me out. Yeah, he reminds me of my sin, especially my past that he doesn't realize. Yet he reminds me more of my savior who says done, forgiven, blotted out. I remember it no more..... because of the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Christian, you need not go back. But if you do say thank you. Today, I'll be with you in paradise father, because what you did for me, Jesus there upon the cross, we didn't have a long counseling session. We didn't have to come to deep theology. As a thief on the cross he simply said, "Remember me when you enter into your kingdom." Jesus says, "Today, you'll be with me."

When You Take a Believer Back – Who You Like

By the way, think about it. When you take a repentant believer back to their past and put it in their face reminding them of all their faults and the failures you have to consider who am I more like? Jesus who said, "I will remember their sin no more." Or the devil, the accuser of the brethren. And

you know what? You'll never be more like Jesus than when you say father, forgive them. They know not what they do.

Resurrection Power only After Death / How Quickly Jesus Died

As I was reflecting on the cross this week, I once again was amazed and pondering how quickly Jesus died, in only 6 hours. I have read historical accounts of people being nearly 2 weeks on the cross before dying. Now mind you, Jesus was brutalized greatly before the cross, so amazing that He even made it to the cross (after the scourging and beating, for many did not even survive the 40-lashes).

As Jesus hung on the Cross, the Roman soldiers came to break His legs in order to put Him to death quickly, the next day being a holy day. But when they came to speed up the death process, they marveled that He was already dead. In other words, Jesus died more quickly than they thought He would. He gave up the ghost sooner than they had anticipated. Perhaps sometimes we go through elongated difficulties and trials because, like Job, we're struggling to prove our point, to justify our position, or to have our way. But could it be that the Lord might say, "Just die. Give it up. Lay it down"?

Truly, there can be no reconciliation apart from death (Hebrews 9:16). Reconciliation between any two people cannot take place without death. Somebody's gotta die. The only question is who and when? Wouldn't it have been a tragedy if Jesus had kept on struggling on the Cross hour after hour, day after day? Aren't we glad that Jesus laid His life down after six hours? Why did He die so quickly? I suggest it was because the sooner He died, the sooner He would rise. So, too, the sooner we die, resurrection and restoration will follow. I wonder if there is a husband or wife who is going through trials in their marriage because you're right and she's wrong. I wonder if there is a friend who is avoiding another because it's her fault not yours. Here's a better idea: Give it up. Let it go. Lay it down. Die.

[Hebrews 9:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

To insure that Jesus was indeed dead, the Roman soldiers jabbed a spear in His side and out poured blood and water, the signs of a broken heart. You'll know you're truly dead to your rights, your point, your self if, when the sticking point is jabbed in your side, the only thing that flows from you is water and blood, redemption and refreshment.

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- **Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) – Hebrews 10:23**

(Hebrews 10:23 NKJV) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

10:23. Christians are enjoined by the verb *katechōmen* to keep on possessing the confession of their *elpidos aklinē*, that is, to persevere in maintaining their unwavering hope. Jesus who suffered and died for them is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. They do not yet see Him in all His power and kingdom glory (2:8), but they look for Him to return as King of kings and Lord of lords. They must persist in this hope because God is trustworthy. They can rely upon Him to keep His Word. He cannot lie, and He has sworn by oath that Jesus is an eternal Melchizedekian priest-king.

[Harris, R. W., ed. \(1989\). Hebrews–Jude \(pp. 127–129\). World Library Press.](#)

Jesus is our faithful High Priest. To whom is He faithful? He is faithful to His Father ([Hebrews 3:1, 2](#)). Could we exhaust His patience? Possibly. Could the Father exhaust His patience? Impossible. Jesus is faithful to His Father to do what? To keep those who had been committed to Him ([John 17:12](#)).

[Hebrews 3:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

John 17:12 (NKJV) ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

The Lord has given us a continual reminder, of how to be reminded, that it is done, the New Covenant has been signed, sealed, and delivered, through the finished work of the cross (that I/we had absolutely nothing to do with, nothing we can take credit for, for we were not even there. **1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)** ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

How low would the King of the Universe go to redeem you, buy us back and deliver us from our sin? Psalm 22 says God became a worm, that is how low the King would come for me!

In Job (although flawed in his counsel) Bildad says man before God, is like a worm (even a maggot), yet tie that all the way through to Psalm, that is how low God would go, and become (the God-Man) to redeem us! God became man, left heaven's throne, lived a perfect sinless life (for the qualification of the sacrifice was perfection), was crucified on the cross (in mine and your place), died and was buried, and then rose again on the 3rd day, and then 40 days later ascended into heaven and is seated at the Throne!

Job 25:6 (NKJV) ⁶ How much less man, *who is a maggot*, And a son of man, *who is a worm?*"

Psalm 22:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

The Hebrew word translated "worm" is tolaith. In Hebrew, tolaith is used for both "worm" and "scarlet" because the tolaith was the worm from which red dye was extracted. The tolaith would reproduce by fastening itself to the limb of a tree, dying in the process of bearing its young. The young would then eat the body of the worm, leaving a small scarlet spot on the limb of the tree. After approximately three days, the crimson spot would dry, turn white, and flake off like snow. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow," Isaiah declared (1:18), and the word he used was tolaith.

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Great is the mystery that God became a man (1 Timothy 3:16). But greater still is the mystery that the Man became a Lamb and the Lamb became a worm to save you and me.

1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- **Provoking One Another (the Outward) – Hebrews 10:24-25**

(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

(Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (KJV 1900) ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

10:24, 25. Christians are exhorted by the verb *katanoōmen* to be constantly aware of one another and the need to stimulate one another to loving behavior and good works. The word translated "provoke" is *paroxusmon*. It refers to sharp contention and argument, suggesting that believers must sharply confront one another with their responsibility. If such admonition is to take place,

Christians must meet together on a regular basis. A Christian cannot profit from the gifts of others unless he fellowships with them. Apparently, those receiving this epistle were withdrawing from the fellowship of the whole congregation in favor of their miniflock. In the light of the approaching day (a reference to the return of the Lord in judgment with some implications for the nearness of Jerusalem's destruction), the gathering of all was urged.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews—Jude (pp. 127–129). World Library Press.

Encourage / Build Up

Part of the purpose of the church is for exhortation, that we might be encouraged to good works, encouraged to seek the Lord, encouraged to forsake the things of the world, encouraged to walk close to Christ. That's a part of the reason for our gathering is for the exhortation, as well as edification, being built up in our faith, and to be comforted in the Scriptures

Mountain Climbers

For safety reasons, mountain climbers rope themselves together when climbing a mountain. That way, if one climber should slip and fall, he would not fall to his death. He would be held by the others until he could regain his footing.

The church ought to be like that. When one member slips and falls, the others should hold him up until he regains his footing. We are all roped together by the Holy Spirit.

Like a Coal / All because of the Son

Like a coal in a fire, it stays hot, and glows hot, when it stays amongst the other coals. Your love fuels my love, my love fuels your, and it is all because of the warmth of the Son, S-O-N. When the world watches us, they can say what they will, like nut cases meeting twice a week or more, men hugging men, meeting in a corner of business park. But they can't deny the love, and if they truly look into it, they will see it is all about, and all because of Jesus. Jesus the Son, is the fire that warms our hearts and this fellowship

Oh the power of encouragement. Here is a powerful story, that we can carry into our encouragement with one another.

Jesse Owens

Jesse Owens seemed sure to win the long jump at the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin, Germany. Just the year before, he had set three world records in one day. He was the record holder for the running broad jump with 26 feet 8 inches—a record that would stand for 25 years.

As he walked to the long-jump pit, however, Owens saw a tall, blue-eyed, blond German taking practice jumps in the 26-foot range. Owens was nervous. He was aware of the tension created with his presence. He knew the Nazis' desire was to prove Aryan "superiority," especially over the blacks.

The pressure was overwhelming, and on his first jump Owens inadvertently leaped from several inches beyond the takeoff board. Rattled, he fouled on the second attempt, too. He was only one foul away from being eliminated.

At this point, the tall German approached Owens and introduced himself as Luz Long. Then an amazing event took place. The black son of a sharecropper and the white model of Nazi manhood chatted in view of the entire stadium. What were they talking about?

Since the qualifying distance was only 23 feet 5 inches, Long suggested making a mark several inches before the takeoff board and jumping from there, just to play it safe. Amazing! At the beginning of World War II, this model of Germany's strength was providing technical assistance and words of encouragement to a foe both on and off the field.

Owens qualified easily. In the finals, he set an Olympic record and earned the second of four gold medals during the 1936 Olympics. The first person to congratulate Owens was Luz Long—in full view of Adolf Hitler.

Owens never saw Long again, for Long was killed in World War II. “You could melt down all the medals and cups I have,” Owens later wrote, “and they wouldn’t be plating on the 24-carat friendship I felt for Luz Long.”

Citation: Ken Sutterfield, *The Power of an Encouraging Word* (New Leaf, 1997), pp. 105–106

Christian, who will you encourage today, and whose life will you affect through your encouragement.

Acts 1

So as we close, may I make this point, regarding prayer, as it is clearly what we have been called to be intentional in as we study this passage. I find it ever so interesting, that when Jesus was ascending into heaven, the angels said men why are you staring up into heaven, this Jesus as He was taken up, will return in the same manner. Now first up I don’t blame them for staring, I would still be staring if I was them. But I love what they did next when they were told that Jesus is coming back.... They gathered together for a prayer meeting. So too a picture of the Church in Corporate prayer in the Last Days.

Acts 1:9–11 (NKJV)⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:12–14 (NKJV)¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son of Alphaeus* and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son of James*. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

The Day

“The Day” approaching is a reference to Second Coming of Christ, we are to remind each other of that, so when we grow weary of doing well and may be considering checking out for awhile, we stir up the fire that is living inside of, Christ Jesus, and we encourage each other along. We remind each other He is coming soon, we need to be ready, and let as many who will hear, hear!

And speaking of stirring one another, here are the 5 reasons we do a monthly Prophecy Update:

Peace – Comfort one another that Jesus is Coming for His Bride.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV)¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Priority – What is really important based on all these things?

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Purity – How then should we live based on these things.

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Proof – That this Bible is Inspired.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Preach – Tell the world the Good News – They need to hear it!

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Watch Night

Watch Night, also called Freedom's Eve, Christian religious service held on New Year's Eve and associated, in many African American churches, with a celebration and remembrance of the Emancipation Proclamation (enacted January 1, 1863), which freed slaves in the Confederate states during the American Civil War. Many mainline Protestant churches in the United States sponsor a Watch Night service on New Year's Eve.

The tradition of Watch Night may be traced to the early 18th century in Moravian churches, when churchgoers began marking the occasion with a vigil to reflect upon the year past and to contemplate the one to come. John Wesley adopted the practice for his Methodist followers, who held similar vigils monthly with the full moon. It was given new significance among African Americans on December 31, 1862, when, according to tradition, slaves in the Confederate states gathered in churches and private homes on the night before U.S. Pres. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was expected to go into effect, pending his signing of the document. The soon-to-be-free slaves stayed awake all night and watched the night turn into a new dawn while waiting for news that the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued, thus making all the slaves legally free.

That is a true illustration, that truly illustrates what we should be doing and encouraging one another as we wait, on our watch night, for our freedom call, from this world.

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- Prayer (the Upward) – Hebrews 10:19-22
- Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) – Hebrews 10:23
- Provoking One Another (the Outward) – Hebrews 10:24-25

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 10:26-39

Title: The Just Shall Live by Faith

Summary: Faith (For-All-I-Trust-Him); I think many times this faith we make way more complicated than it is, for it is simply, trusting Him in all things. Join us today as we look at faith, which is profoundly simple, yet simply profound

Hebrews 10:26–39 (NKJV) ²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses.* ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. And again, "*The LORD will judge His people.*" ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ³² But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷ "*For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*" ³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.* ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Outline: The Just Shall Live by Faith (Hebrews 10:26-39):

- A Faith, that is Settled on the God-Sacrifice (10:26-29)
- A Faith, that is Secure in the Hands of God (10:30-31)
- A Faith, that is Seeing Heaven's Reward (10:32-37)
- A Faith, that is Satisfying to the Lord (10:38-39)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

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In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
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- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39

Our study today is also the 5th warning given in this epistle, and it is despising the finished sacrifices, but adding something to the Perfect Lamb Sacrifice, God Himself.

A Faith, that is Settled on the God-Sacrifice (10:26-29)

(Hebrews 10:26 NKJV) For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

(Hebrews 10:27 NKJV) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

(Hebrews 10:28 NKJV) Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

(Hebrews 10:29 NKJV) Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Let's just start with a clear point, the sacrifice was and is – God! God became the sacrifice for our sin.

Warning Isn't Backsliding / But Turning Your Back

The warning isn't that if you sin or struggle with sin, there's no hope for you. No, the sin of backsliding here in Hebrews 10 is not going back into sin, but rather turning your back on the Provision for sin. If I say, "Jesus didn't really pay the price sufficiently, so I've got to contribute my own effort," I mock the broken Body and fail to give worth to the shed blood. That's the warning here.

We All Fail

Thus, contrary to many well-intentioned sermons, the warning in Hebrews 10 is not so much in reference to backsliding as it is to back-turning—turning one's back on what Jesus did on our behalf. Certainly, this is what the writer intended, for every one of us fails. Every one of us is increasingly aware of our shortcomings the closer we get to the Lord. Every one of us joins Paul in saying, "I am the chief of sinners" (see 1 Timothy 1:15).

John shows us:

1 John 1:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

We will not be in perfected bodies until we reach heaven, so in the meantime we will continue to struggle with sin. There is no one that has not willfully and knowingly sinned since they gave their life to the Lord. So this warning isn't about once you backslide you can't come back.

Context / REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST

These people were ready to go back to Judaism, and back to offering of sacrifices in the temple. The author was saying NO - REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST JESUS CHRIST. We can get so confused in the midst of struggles that we lose focus and forget the basic elementary things.

Old Things Passed Away / The Veil Torn

The old things have passed away, the veil has been rent.

Matthew 27:50–51 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

Jesus Final Sacrifice / He is Superior

Jesus was and is the final sacrifice. This whole epistle is about the superiority of Christ, there is none greater, the message is complete, and the way to perfect standing before God that is eternal is through Jesus Christ and Him only.

The Main Point - There is No Other Way / Nothing to Go back to

Main Point: the author, through the Holy Spirit, is saying there is no other way for salvation, except through Jesus and His Cross. A common lamb of the field, sacrificed on the altar in the temple, cannot wash your sin away, YOU CAN NOT be renewed by an animal sacrifice, your sin cannot be covered by a lamb on the altar ever again. Only the Perfect Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) can wash away your sin. Only Jesus can make you white as snow. Now that Jesus has come, there is no other way, there is nothing to go back to.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Once and for All / NOT Once isn't Enough

Jesus died once and for all; He went to the cross once, and said it is finished, there never needs to be made another sacrifice ever again, it is finished. But if these Hebrew believers went to the temple and started offering sacrifices again, they would be in essence saying, once wasn't enough, and they would be crucifying Jesus again, again, and again.

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Cults Today

And that is what we see going on around us today. There are religious cults who say Jesus isn't sufficient enough to wipe out my sin, therefore I must add something else to it. Now maybe they aren't sacrificing animals, but they are adding to it in their own way. They say you have to knock on so many doors, you have to do two years of missionary works,, worship on the Sabbath only.

Better / Perfect / Eternal

Remember the key words of this epistle: better, perfect, and eternal; Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us perfect standing before God.

Adding to is Blasphemy

Let me say this clearly, to add to, or take away from the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, is blasphemy. People say Jesus and.....Joseph Smith, Jesus and.....my good works, Jesus and.....the sacraments. No, it is Jesus and....the CROSS. Period!!!! The only way to the Father and eternal salvation, that is the theme of this epistle – the superiority of Christ over everything.

(Hebrews 10:14 NKJV) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Adding is an Insult / The Special Cola

Adding something that we can do, or another way is an insult to God. Could you imagine if your child had a cure for a blood disease that was going to wipe out the whole world, and the only way to save the world was every last drop of your child's blood in order to make the antidote. So you sacrifice your child, and then the next day you see some selling "special cola" that will keep your blood pure so you can stay healthy. You would be enraged, you would say my child's blood saved you, how could cheapen what he did for you. As you would see that on every corner, and turn the TV on and here people all around the world adding to it, you would look at the picture of your child on the wall, look at the empty bed, and ask how could they.

What Does It Mean / I'm Free

So what does this mean? It means I'm free. It means I know there's nothing else I can do or must do or should do. It's all been done, and I rest in that fact. The warning of Hebrews 10 is not intimidating. It's inviting! It's great news! You mean Your warning, Father, is to not go back to self-efforts or religious activities to try to earn Your favor? You mean I'm free to just remember what You've done, and to celebrate my salvation? Wonderful!"

How About Others

But, how about those who are trampling the Son of God, the Lamb, underfoot, or outright rejecting Him, how do we look upon them? Well first lets consider how Jesus looks upon a person.

Continually throughout the history of the church has been the argument, one saved, always saved, or the chosen and the elect is settled by God and not man, or the other side which is it is **all up to man to choose or reject.**

Ephesians 1:3–6 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

John 6:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Here is the simplicity of it all..... regardless where your theology falls,

The Elect..... still needs to be convinced.

That is why

2 Timothy 4:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV) ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

So, how about those who are trampling the Son of God, the Lamb, underfoot, or outright rejecting Him, how do we look upon them? Well first lets consider how Jesus looks upon a person.

When Jesus, looking upon them in love,

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to set them free – from them!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to make them a rock, solid and sure in my faith!

John 1:42 (NKJV) ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to dine with a sinner such as them, regardless of my past!

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to teach them His Word, which is His very Heart.

Jesus wants to give them His heart!

Mark 6:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring them, before they ever even saw Him!

John 1:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to make them whole!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Christian..... how do you them, those they are trampling the blood of Jesus underfoot? They are lost, they are deceived, and if we do not look upon them the way Jesus does, we will never reach them, for we will never have a heart for them.

I/You, have to "see them", literally look at them, and process them in your heart, and you will see a precious soul that is lost, dying, deceived..... and your heart will be moved for them, and then ask God to open a door and then if He does, walk through the door and speak, and if the door doesn't open at that moment, then pray for what was moved on your heart (them).

A Faith, that is Secure in the Hands of God (10:30-31)

(Hebrews 10:30 NKJV) For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."

(Hebrews 10:31 NKJV) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Observation / Interpretation

10:30. The answer to the question of verse 29 is evident. The God of the old and new covenants has not changed. The God of the new covenant is the same God who spoke through Moses and

the prophets. In warning Israel about the consequences of disobeying the Mosaic law by turning aside to worship idols, He told them that vengeance and repayment were His prerogatives (Deuteronomy 32:35). He also declared that He would judge Israel for their departure from the Sinaitic covenant (Deuteronomy 32:36).

Deuteronomy 32:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ *Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.*

Deuteronomy 32:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ *For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free.*

10:31. To be caught in the web of God's active judgment is a terrifying prospect. (The word phoberon, "terrifying," is used also in verse 27.) But that is the only fate that awaits those who turn aside from the new covenant blessings procured by the blood of God's beloved Son, rejecting His sacrifice.

Some people find it difficult to believe a loving God would send judgment. But the One who is the very essence of love is also holy and righteous. When the limits of His mercy have been exceeded, nothing is left but to receive His just judgment. His hands of blessing are beyond description, but when His hands are used in judgment, the expression "fearful thing" is most appropriate.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews–Jude (p. 131). World Library Press.

God is not afraid to judge. So take heed, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." God is a God of mercy and grace, but if you reject His only Son - if you callously trample the Son He sent to die in your place - there is no punishment too harsh!

Application

For myself, I know who I am, I know what I am truly deserving of, and it is judgment, yet I received mercy. I know who I am, but I know whose I am, I am His. I am reminded of Matthew 21, and the stone, none other than Jesus, and if it falls on me in judgement it crushes and destroys me, but if I fall on it (my choice), I am broken. I am broken..... free of my sin that condemns me, I am broken free of me sin that deceives me, devours me, destroys me.....I am broken open, that His life and His love can flow into me.

Matthew 21:42–46 (NKJV) ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: *'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing. And it is marvelous in our eyes'*? ⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁴ And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." ⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. ⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

The opposite of fearful (full of fear). Is fearless (free from fear), and I can live my life by whose hands I have entrusted myself to, without fear that He will not accomplish and do all He said and promised He would.

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(Hebrews 10:33 NKJV) partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

(Hebrews 10:34 NKJV) for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Observation / Interpretation

Part of the reason the Hebrews were returning to the sacrificial system was because, in so doing, they were no longer alienated from the community. "Why go back to the old way?" Paul asks.

"They've already called you Jesus freaks. You've already been beaten up. So why, after suffering so much, would you return to the system from which this punishment came? The best is still ahead. Keep your hope in heaven."

Shortly after they came to Christ the Hebrews were hassled for their faith - to the point of having possessions confiscated. They'd probably been excommunicated by their Jewish families, and forced to return inheritances and keepsakes. Yet they had continued in their faith! This very writer was imprisoned for his faith, yet he writes them to continue on for this world is temporal and heaven is eternal.

Jesus said we will face tribulation in this world

John 16:33 (NKJV) ³³ *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*"

Application

Every Christian experience times when their faith offers no real worldly advantage. Instead of making us rich it causes us loss... Instead of popularity it draws persecution... Instead of promotion we get put down... And in those times we need to hunker down! We'll receive a great reward - an eternal reward no less - if we don't lose heart, but hold fast to our faith in Jesus.

(Hebrews 10:35 NKJV) Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

(Hebrews 10:36 NKJV) For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

(Hebrews 10:37 NKJV)

"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

Don't worry about fitting in with the old gang. Keep going. Keep living for heaven.

Here is a story told by Mary Hollingsworth about the acclaimed director, Cecil B. DeMille. When they began working on the movie Ben Hur, DeMille talked to Charlton Heston, the star of the movie, about the all important chariot race at the end. He decided Heston should actually learn to

drive the chariot himself, rather than just using a stunt double. Heston agreed to take chariot-driving lessons to make the movie as authentic as possible.

This was no small feat! Learning to drive a chariot with horses four abreast, was an enormous challenge. After extensive work and days of practice, Heston returned to the movie set and reported to DeMille. He said, "I think I can drive the chariot all right, Cecil, but I'm not at all sure I can actually win the race."

With a slight smile on his face, DeMille said, "Heston, you just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win."

That is God's promise to us as well: "You just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win."

How? – Last Weeks Study – Must be Intentional

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- Prayer (the Upward) – Hebrews 10:19-22
- Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) – Hebrews 10:23
- Provoking One Another (the Outward) – Hebrews 10:24-25

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

A Faith, that is Satisfying to the Lord (10:38-39)

(Hebrews 10:38 NKJV)

Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

(Hebrews 10:39 NKJV)

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

"Perdition" means "waste"—a perfect word choice for the frustratingly pointless existence under the law of self-help and self-effort.

God is satisfied with nothing less than..... faith that believes and trusts Him completely for salvation.

The Temple after Jesus

We studied Yom Kipper, the Day of Atonement. We know the veil ripped in two. But I wonder what happened on those Yom Kippers after Jesus went to the cross. I searched in ancient writings but haven't found anything – yet!. But I wonder, did each year the High priest go in and be consumed? Did each year they drag him out by the rope and say our sins are not forgiven this year, I wonder what it is, what is it that we are doing wrong. I doubt it, I doubt it because God no longer recognized the Old System, and secondly we see in the Scriptures the Temple will be standing, so sacrifices will begin again, and the nobody will know the difference.

Know the differences of what? That God is not in it anymore. When Jesus became our High Priest the old things past away.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Samson – Spirit Departed

One of the saddest verses in the Bible:

(Judges 16:20 NKJV) And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

(Judges 16:21 NKJV) Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

Samson was disobedient to the Lord, he messed in places he should never have been, and the Spirit of the Lord departed from him, and he never knew it. I think that is what happened to the temple worship after Jesus suffered the cross. I believe people just kept going to temple, day in day out, they went and did it their way, and never realized that the Spirit had departed, that God was no longer in it.

And I believe that is what we see around us today, people doing it their way, adding onto the works of Jesus. They do their thing, they are not consumed, and they take that as meaning God is pleased with them, God is working through their program, all the while never knowing that what they are doing is spiritless, it is just dead works, wasted efforts.

I believe it's naive to teach that just because you made a decision for Jesus at a point in your past, there is now nothing you can do to jeopardize your salvation. That's not only wrong, it breeds a false sense of security. We should be encouraging our perseverance.

Stop having faith and you're stumbling toward hell. To be saved by faith we have to continue in faith.

For us, faith in the One that looks upon us "in love"

When Jesus, looking upon me in love,

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to set me free – from me!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me a rock, solid and sure in my faith!

John 1:42 (NKJV) ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to dine with a sinner such as me, regardless of my past!

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to teach me His Word, which is His very Heart. Jesus wants to give me His heart!

Mark 6:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring me, before I ever even saw Him!

John 1:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me whole!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Outline: The Just Shall Live by Faith (Hebrews 10:26-39):

- A Faith, that is Settled on the God-Sacrifice (10:26-29)
- A Faith, that is Secure in the Hands of God (10:30-31)
- A Faith, that is Seeing Heaven's Reward (10:32-37)
- A Faith, that is Satisfying to the Lord (10:38-39)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Hebrews Chapter 11

Christ and His Faithful Followers: The Hall of Faith

Passage: Hebrews 11:1-4

Title: Blind Faith? Not at All!

Summary: Christians are continually accused of having “blind faith”, join us today as we begin our study through Hebrews 11 known as the Hall of Faith, and we will see that our faith is surely not “blind faith”, but it is built on something that we all have claim personally. Join us as we dig deep into a wonderful passage of scripture.

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

Recap 1-10

In chapters:

- 1 and 2 we saw that Jesus is superior to the angels, and we saw His deity and His humanity.
- In Hebrews 3 we saw that Jesus is superior to Moses”. We saw that Moses could lead them out of Egypt, but he couldn't lead them into the Promised Land, he couldn't lead them into their rest because of unbelief.
- But chapter 4 we saw that Christ is our rest, and we can claim His rest by faith.
- In chapter 5 we saw that the works are complete because He is our High Priest,
- and chapter 6, Jesus is our full assurance, there is nothing else we could ever go to.
- Chapter 7, we saw that we have a great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Chapter 7 is so vital to our understanding. Rest will only come from knowing “It is Done”, our High Priest has done it all, there is nothing for us to do. He is far superior to any priesthood on earth, or set of rules that man can try to bind us to.
- Chapter 8 we saw a beautiful picture of our High Priest Jesus Christ, that He is the Mediator of the New Covenant, a Covenant that would not be written on stone or with ink on a paper, but that He would write His laws on the very tablets of our heart, His divine finger writing and touch our very hearts.
- Chapter 9 we went into the Holy of Holies and saw the work of the High Priest, and we saw our High Priest, Jesus, pay our sins in full.
- Chapter 10 is almost a total wrap-up of the whole epistle. The author goes over the main points again, puts in a warning not to add to or take away from all that we have studied – the superiority of Christ. We continue in chapter 10 with the study of the sacrificial system, and we see that it was all just a shadow of the true and perfect Sacrifice, Jesus Christ:

Position through Provision: The doctrinal summation, our “Position” (sons/daughters of God), through the “Provision” (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

The Gospel:

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

You are perishing, because you sin separates you from the Holy God, and you will die in your sin and be cast into everlasting hell if you don't do something about it.

What must you to be saved? The Philippian jailer asked the same question, and the Apostle Paul said this,

Acts 16:30–31 (NKJV) ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Believe means (Recognize – Repent – Receive - Resurrection)

- *Recognize* your sin offends and separates you from the Holy God, (Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23).
- *Repent* (means turn from and turn to – it's a change of direction), and you must be willing to turn from your sin and turn to Jesus, (Acts 3:19).
- *Receive* – Ask to receive God's provision (punishment for sin), His Only Begotten Son who went and died on the cross, offering to trade places with anyone who asks. He takes your sin and punishment, and you get to be a son/daughter of the Heavenly Father. (Romans 10:9-10).
- *Resurrection* – the power of the Gospel (good news) is the resurrection, sin and death could not hold Him, and it is proof-positive that God accepted the sacrifice, and the trade (substitute), Jesus instead of you, (Romans 10:9-10).

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

So, here we begin chapters 11-13 we then turn to application (duty) of all that we have studied in the last 10 chapters.

Doctrine & Duty / 3 Great Virtues

So, in writing his epistles (most likely wrote this epistle), Paul's typical method at the outset was to address issues of doctrine and to follow with exhortations to duty. He would talk about position—who we are in Christ—before he would deal with practice—how we should live and behave. And such is the case in this epistle to the Hebrews. The first ten chapters have been concerned with doctrine, position, and what Christ has done for us. In the remaining three chapters, the author will make practical application. In fact, in each of the three remaining chapters, he will address one of the three great virtues...

(1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV) *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Chapters 11-13:

- In chapter 11, we read about the walk of faith.
- In chapter 12, we are reminded of the wisdom of hope.
- In chapter 13, we see the way of love.

It All Flows Together

Position through Provision: The doctrinal summation, our “Position” (sons/daughters of God), through the “Provision” (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

It's not that the author of this letter is suddenly saying, “Okay, now we're done with doctrine, so let's switch gears and talk about something practical.” No it all flows together. Keep in mind the Epistle to the Hebrews was written to keep Jewish believers from being sucked back into religious traditions. That's why chapter 11 is so essential to the discussion of the first ten chapters. “I know it's tempting to go back to that which you can see with your eyes, smell with your nose, and touch with your hands. But don't do it,” the author pleads, “for now you are called to something entirely different. You are called to walk by faith.” The end of chapter 10:

(Hebrews 10:38 NKJV) *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”*

(Hebrews 10:39 NKJV) *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

Stay in the faith of the “Position”, through the “Provision” and don't be draw back, drawn out!

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)
- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)
- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- [Who Is God? \(How Great is He?\)](#)
- [What Does He Think of Me? \(How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?\)](#)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Definition of Faith

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Hebrews 11:2 NKJV) For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

(Hebrews 11:3 NKJV) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Albert Einstein

When Albert Einstein was making the rounds of the speaker's circuit, he usually found himself eagerly longing to get back to his laboratory work. One night as they were driving to yet another rubber-chicken dinner, Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur (a man who somewhat resembled Einstein in looks & manner) that he was tired of speechmaking.

"I have an idea, boss," his chauffeur said. "I've heard you give this speech so many times. I'll bet I could give it for you." Einstein laughed loudly and said, "Why not? Let's do it!"

When they arrived at the dinner, Einstein donned the chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back of the room. The chauffeur gave a beautiful rendition of Einstein's speech and even answered a few questions expertly.

Then a supremely pompous professor asked an extremely esoteric question about anti-matter formation, digressing here and there to let everyone in the audience know that he was nobody's fool. Without missing a beat, the chauffeur fixed the professor with a steely stare and said, "Sir, the answer to that question is so simple that I will let my chauffeur, sitting in the back, answer it for me."

Application of the Story

I love that story, and I see a personal application for me in my faith. As long as I know the answer, as long as I am working within a realm that I am familiar, I am comfortable and confident. But once I have to leave that realm, that is where my comfort and reliance of self ends, and I need help, I need the Father. What is my simplest definition of Faith? The need of the Father.

Where I end, is where faith begins.

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is not a “hope” as in we hope it happens, but a faith knowing what we hope for will come to pass.

Substance of things hoped for, there is substance to faith. Evidence of things not seen. It is believing God to keep His word, though there may not be any evidence of it at the moment. All I have is the promise of you Father, but that is sufficient! And I rest on that! The phrase “things not seen” is literally “things not yet seen.” Faith is the substance of what you know is coming your way, even though it is not yet seen. Faith isn’t wishful thinking. No, based upon the Word of God, faith says, “Whether I see it presently, understand it intellectually, or experience it immediately, I know what God says He’ll do, He will do.”

The Greek word for “substance” is “hupostasis”. It is a scientific term, meaning the opposite of hypothesis or theory. It is that which rest upon facts. In chemistry it would be the chemical which settles at the bottom of the test tube after you have made an experiment. The substance of our faith was proved out on the cross at Calvary and through this Word of God that lies in your hand right now.

Faith is the sixth sense that perceives the spiritual and eternal. As Oswald Sanders puts it, “Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.”

The bible says we walk by faith and not by sight, so true, but I have personally seen God’s Word come to physical sight in my life personally, and many of you that I have had the blessings to come to know personally. He did all these things, He said He would do.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to set me free – from me! – And He did!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

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Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me whole! - And He did!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ *Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.* ⁶ *When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”*

It is not a hypothesis or theory, it is evidence that I can see is real.

(Hebrews 11:2 NKJV) For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

So we will study through some 10 specific names and their stories, another 6 in name and generalized reminded they are men/woman of faith, and stories that add up to literally “millions” of people walking by faith. So the heroes of faith in this chapter, but they are just the few of the many, who were the “just who lived by faith” and did not draw back.

Hebrews 10:38–39 (NKJV) ³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*
³⁹ *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

Christian your greatest testimony of faith will not be walking on water, planting a church, preaching to the multitude, saying arise take up your bed and walk to a lame person..... your greatest testimony of faith will to finish faith, finish your race, and not draw back or quit.

(Hebrews 11:3 NKJV) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

You are the First Listed

So we start a whole list of the Hall of Faith, and guess who tops the list? You!

The Invisible Things

If you believe God spoke the worlds into existence, you lead the parade of those who obtain a good report. You are the first mentioned here in the Hall of Faith.

(Genesis 1:1 KJV) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

A very fascinating statement because they didn't know anything at that time about atomic particles, about electrons, and the protons and so forth, these invisible things, the atoms that make up the material universe. And yet by faith, they believed that the things that are seen were made of things that are not seen!

The Hebrew word for create is “bara” – it means to create out of nothing.

Faith, it takes great faith to believe in the Creation account, and it takes equal faith to believe in evolution.

- Creation: Someone created everything.
- Evolution: Nothing created everything.

No Such Thing as Blind Faith

They say, they talk about blind faith, no, no, no! There is no such thing as blind faith. The man of faith actually sees much more than a man who has no faith. He only sees what is visible and obvious, but the man of faith sees far beyond and sees much more. They call Christians narrow minded and simple, that is so far from the truth; for Christians see the unseen, the big picture, and Christians see the deep things, things man can't explain. It is not Blind Faith, but a faith that sees.

To see a magnificent building, or high-flying airplane, we all say there was intelligent design behind it. But see a hummingbird, and say it came from nothing, or that man just happen by chance, two cells becoming one, and the amazing life that becomes, that takes a lot of faith to believe it came from nothing.

Psalms 139:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

But, even believing in the Creation account, that God said it and it was, is not truly faith. Believing the God who spoke the world and you into existence, and who said..... John 3:16, and you received it, that is the faith God is speaking of that is the beginning of all faith, the faith in the Provision, that makes us positionally His sons and daughters.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Now he begins to list a hall of faith by name. Men, who believed the promise of God and the Word of God and were honored because of their faith in God. He begins with Abel

1.) Faith in Worship (The Worship of the Lamb) – 11:4

(Hebrews 11:4 NKJV) By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Abel's Sacrifice vs Cain's Sacrifice

Abel's sacrifice, was a lamb (a young sheep), Cain's was the work of his flesh (tilling of the land, the sweat of his brow, look what I did).

Genesis 4:2–5 (NKJV) ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

All Faith Begins Here – Worthy is the Lamb

All faith begins here, it is believing in the Sacrifice of the Lamb for the forgiveness of sin, that there is no other way (as we have studied here in Hebrews). It is us saying:

Revelation 5:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain** To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

All Faith begins with saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain".

Abel got it, Cain never did. Abel learned it from his father Adam, Cain sang the "I'll do it my way" song.

Adam never the Same Again / Living in the Light

You see after the fall I believe that Adam was never the same again. There really is no mention of Adam walking with God again in the cool of the day like he did before the fall. Adam would always be living in the light of, "I remember what it was like before the fall." He would remember walking side by side with the Father, talking, laughing, asking, that sweet communion and fellowship. But after the fall, things would never be the same, Adam was now living in a fallen state, subject to the consequences that came with the fall.

He would see what it took to cover him, and bring him back into the presence of His Creator..... a Lamb:

Genesis 3:21 (NKJV) ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

For Adam, he would look back at what once was (walking in the cool of the day with the Lord) and miss that innocence and intimacy with his Creator; for us, we are looking forward to that day where we will literally walk face-to-face with God, in heaven, finally out of this fallen world and fallen body. All because our position is secure because the Provision that was provided.

Note: It has always been a lamb, we see that all the way through the scriptures, but I believe the reason it is not called out specific as a lamb in Genesis 3, is that the lamb was not identified specifically until the Law came down on Sinai, and thus preventing man from worshipping the lamb and making an idol out of the lamb, like they did with the golden calves. But we see the thread from the Law to Jesus (John 1:29), that is has always been a lamb.

Tunics of skin: In order for Adam and Eve to be clothed, a sacrifice had to be made. An animal had to die. Without shedding of blood there is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22)

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Adam would take the Lamb

Things of this world wouldn't excite him anymore, how could they after he had walked so close to the Father. The boys probably thought it strange when every now and again he would pick up a lamb and head into the woods, alone, to go be with his Father. Eve would say, boys give your father some time alone. Then Adam would come back with peace and contentment on his heart, but it would always be temporary.

One son would Get it / The other Wouldn't

One son, Abel, he would get it, he would see and understand why Adam would take the lamb, Abel would take it to heart what it all meant. But for Cain, he would never get, it would always be his way. Abel got it, he saw his father, he knew what it meant, what the lamb was for. So when God said bring me an offering, he knew it was a lamb, and a lamb only.

The lamb was a substitute / God never indebted to Man

The lamb was a substitute of what was to come, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. The lamb sacrificed was a picture of God being the giver, the life-giver, the greatest gift, His only Son. But for Cain it was his religion, his works trying to appease God. His way was giving to God, making God the receiver, thus the debtor, that is the root of all false religions, I've done my works, now God responds to it. God is always the initiator, He is always the giver, man is always the responder, the one who is indebted to Him. He is not the magic genie in a bottle. People think they can pay Him something, but what could man ever give god that could compare to what He had given, the blood of His only Son.

(Hebrews 9:22 NKJV) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

There are only two religions; there is the religion of fig leaves and there is the religion of God's perfect provision through Jesus. (Guzik)

Covering ourselves with our good works is like Adam and Eve trying to cover themselves with fig leaves. Our good works are like monopoly money—great for monopoly, but not legal tender. Your good works are essential to what it takes to live out your life, but they are not legal tender before God.

Adam and Eve were clothed in a garment that was purchased with the life of another. We are clothed with a garment of righteousness that was purchased with the life of another, Jesus Christ.

Abel had Faith in the Sacrifice

Abel had faith in the Sacrifice. Maybe he fully didn't understand every detail, but he understood that the shed blood of the Lamb would make him right before the Father. He believed that. For us that is where our Faith begins, in the shed blood of the Lamb. We have studied for 10 chapters the blood of Jesus. That he was both the offering, and the High Priest.

All Faith, our faith, begins with saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain".

Revelation 5:12 (NKJV) ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Faith for Righteousness

Here in the Book of Hebrews, it tells us that basically Able was offering a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, because of faith. And it is the difference between offering in faith and not offering in faith that made a difference before God and caused God to accept Abel's and reject Cain's.

And by that, he obtained the witness that he was righteous. Now it is interesting that from the beginning, God accounted faith for righteousness. And it begins way back with Able because Able offered a sacrifice in faith. He was accounted righteous. He has the witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gift, that is, accepting his gift.

Faith Looking Forward / Gen 3:15 / Ish 53

Now, in the Old Testament, their faith was looking forward. You see, God had promised unto Eve that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. That is, the promise of the Messiah, who would defeat Satan's power (Gen 3:15). And so when Cain was born, she said she named him Cain, because she said, I have received the man, not a man, but the man from the Lord. She really thought that Cain would be the Messiah! That God was going to immediately make provision for their sin. But it turned out that He was just the opposite, he was a man of sin. But, the Old Testament saints believed the promise that God would send the Messiah into the world. And they looked forward to that event. They believed that the Messiah would suffer and die for sin.

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Isaiah the prophet said, all we like sheep have gone astray! We've turned every one of us to our own way! But God has laid on Him, the iniquity of us all, talking about the Messiah. And He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. God cried out in that fifty-third chapter, for the transgressions of My people, was He smitten. And so they by faith, looked forward to the promise of God of sending the Messiah, who would offer the sacrifice for sin. And by their believing that, God accounted their faith in Christ, though He had not yet come, He accounted their faith in the Messiah for their righteousness.

Isaiah 53:1-12 (NKJV) ¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong. Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Position through Provision: The doctrinal summation, our "Position" (sons/daughters of God), through the "Provision" (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world).

Through Abraham's Seed

It is interesting that with Abraham, at the place, where it says and God accounted his faith for righteousness, was when God told Abraham to go out and look up into the heavens and see the stars that could not be counted. And God promised to Abraham that the stars in heaven were innumerable, so shall thy seed be! Seed, singular!

Genesis 15:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

And Paul tells us in Galatians 3:16 that God said, seed, singular, as of one, and not seeds as of many. And that seed was Christ!

(Galatians 3:16 NKJV) Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

And it says that Abraham believed God! He believed God's what? That God's promise would be fulfilled and that from his seed, that is the Messiah would come, and that from that, this glorious, innumerable, throng of people be brought into the family of God. He believed God's promise and God accounted that for righteousness. But the promise of the Messiah.

We Look back at the Cross

Now we, are accounted righteous by faith, not by works! But our faith looks back at the cross and at the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins. And of course, as we have been coming through Hebrews, we've been studying the cross of Jesus and we've been studying the sacrifice that He has made. And we have been seeing how that it is superior to the first covenant under the law, the sacrifices of the animals and all, because it was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin, all they could do was cover. But Jesus, through His death, put away our sins. We look back at the cross. And as we believe in Jesus, God accounts our faith for righteousness. *(Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

So Abel, Abraham, and the rest before the cross were saved just like we are saved, except that they were looking forward and believing that God would keep the promise. We're looking backward. We acknowledge, yes, God kept His promise! He sent the Messiah into the world! He died for our sins. He was the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world! *(Hebrews 11:39 NKJV) And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,*

They Had to Wait

So God has provided a better thing for us that they without us should not be made perfect. They could not come into the completed state of salvation under the Old Testament laws of sacrifices. It was impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin. They could not enter into heaven before the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus! They were being kept in a holding cell, so to speak.

Thief on the Cross

When Jesus was on the cross, and the thief said remember me when you enter into your kingdom, and Jesus said today you will be with me in paradise. Jesus was not talking heaven, for no person could enter into heaven until after His resurrection, He was talking Abraham's Bosom: *(Luke 23:42 NKJV) Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."* *(Luke 23:43 NKJV) And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

Luke 16

You remember in Luke 16:19-31, that there was a certain rich man who fared sumptuously every day. Moreover there was a poor man who was brought daily and was laid at his gate. He was full of sores. The dogs licked his sores. And he survived off the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. And the poor man died and was carried by the angels into **Abraham's bosom**. Moreover the rich man also died and in hell, lifted up his eyes, being in torment. And seeing Abraham afar off and Lazarus being comforted in his bosom, cried, father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus unto me that he may take his finger and dip it in water. Touch my tongue because I'm tormented in this heat! He said send Lazarus to my 5 brothers to preach so that they may not come to this terrible place, but Abraham said if they will not believe the prophets, they won't believe someone who comes back from the dead.

(Luke 16:23 NKJV) "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

(Luke 16:24 NKJV) "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

Abraham would Comfort Those who Mourned

The Old Testament saints, they all died in faith, not having received the promise. They weren't able yet to enter into heaven. But when Jesus came and paid the price, the perfect, complete sacrifice, once and for all. When He died, he descended to where Abraham was comforting those in the promises of God. How fitting that Abraham should be the one. The man of faith—the one who is held up above the others as the man of faith, was promised to him that through his faith, all of the nations of the earth would be blessed! And he believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. He was, no doubt, there saying, don't worry, God is going to keep His promise. The Messiah will come!

Ephesians 4

Paul tells in Ephesians four, that He who has ascended, that is Jesus, is the same One, who first of all descended into the lower parts of the earth. But when He ascended, He led captives from the captivity and He gave gifts unto men!

Ephesians 4:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ Therefore He says: *"When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."* ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Jesus Preached to the Souls in Prison

So Jesus preached to those souls in prison, the glorious truths that God has kept His Word, the sacrifice has been made! Heaven's door is now opened unto those who believe! You can enter into the Kingdom of God, because the price of redemption is now paid!

And so Peter tells us that Jesus went to preach to those souls who were in prison.

(1 Peter 3:18 NKJV) *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,*

(1 Peter 3:19 NKJV) *by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,*

He Preached Isaiah 61

I believe Jesus preached Isaiah 53 and 61 to them, for He quoted it when He preached in the synagogue in Nazareth, to let all know His ministry, the glorious ministry (Luke 4:18-19):

(Isaiah 61:1 NKJV) *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

(Isaiah 61:2 NKJV) *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,*

(Isaiah 61:3 NKJV) *To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

Jesus said I'm trading your ashes for beauty, He said that to them, and He says it to us today. He loves you, do you realize that, He loves you so much.

Jesus would show them the Scars

Oh what a glorious time that must have been as Jesus showed to them, no doubt, the marks of the cross and His suffering and the fact that He had died, paid the price for their redemption! And thus, that portion of the prophecy of Isaiah, which told about the Messiah, who was going to come. How that He would set at liberty, those that were bound and open the prison door, which He did. He led the captives from their captivity on into the heavenly kingdom. So they, without us, that is, without the work of Jesus, could not come into the perfected state. But now God has made possible for us, that entrance into heaven. We don't have to wait! To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! So we look forward to that city, that Abraham was looking for—the Kingdom of God! And we pray Lord, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. And I can assure you that God keeps His word. And one day the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah! And He shall reign forever and forever! Hallelujah, hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

So Abel is the first one who is declared, in the Scriptures, to be accounted righteous because of his faith. For every person to be a person of faith, it has to start with having faith in the Lamb.

The Wreckage of Life & and the Heroic Father

It was about two years ago, we went down to visit family in Florida. And we said, "You know what? Let's just drive it. And then we'll camp in South Carolina and we'll stay there for a couple days and just camp," because we love the outdoors. And it was late December and it was just perfect weather in the Carolinas as always. And so we stopped at a KOA and we pitched our tent and we were there and we were enjoying our time of camping.

And there at the KOA, up at the camp store, they made these great pizza. So Renee says, "Let's have pizza." Or maybe it was me, probably me if it's something to do with food and pizza. And I said, "I'm going to go down to the camp store." And Camden says, "I'll go with you." So, me and Camden go down to the camp store to get the pizza. Renee's at the camp site. And here is our camp site, and it was down at kind of at the middle of a hill and they're gravel hills. They're not paved roads. But it was a sharp road that would come from the up, big loop and sharp come down.

So here, me and Camden, and we're coming back from getting the pizza and we're walking. And you can almost hear it just developing and it was like this slow motion world started to come in. We start hearing this noise. So we look up and we see these three boys in a very expensive golf cart. When people camp year round at these places like KOA, they don't buy this golf cart like down here at Compass Point. I mean, they buy several thousand dollars golf carts, big battery powered golf carts and whatnot.

And so we hear the noise and what it was, one of the boys, three teenage boys, one of them that was his family's golf cart. He let the other boy switch and drive who had never driven a golf cart before. And so he's going to ... He is a teenager, right? He's got full pedal to the metal. They're going, and then he's coming up on the bend and he's like, "Okay, well, I'm going to make this bend." He has no idea about gravity and motion and all these type of things.

So he tries to make this bend. I'm telling you this golf cart is probably going 40. And he tries to make this bend in the gravel doing like 40, and you can just start to hear it. And then you look up and you just start to see it. And your first thing is, "Oh, my goodness, is this happening what I think is happening?"

And of course, he can't make the bend. They're going down the hill. The golf cart flips. The golf cart flips. We see one boy get tossed out. Two more left, boom, boom, boom, flip, flip. Roof crushes in. And then it comes to the stop, after all this noise, literally right in front of our campsite.

Then I hear the prayer that reaches heaven. It's my wife who's standing there. It happens right in front of her. "Oh, my God, help them, save them. Someone call 911," but she's crying out to the Lord. Me and Camden see it, and all I see is this mangling. So I take off sprinting. This has nothing to do with the story, but for whatever reason, Renee likes this part of the story. I'm running with the pizza, because I didn't know what else to do with the pizza. I'm running with the pizza because I don't know what to do with the pizza.

Then I run up there. There's Renee and I handed her pizza because now I got to jump in and get underneath of this thing for whatever it is. But when it was all over, man, my stress was up here. I ate that whole pizza in like five minutes. That's what I do to comfort myself, if you ever wonder why. And these two boys are trapped under there. And one, he's still standing but his legs pinned under the golf cart and the one, he's totally underneath of it. He's totally trapped underneath of it.

Now, it's downhill. Got this gravity thing going over and above him are the batteries and they're all busted open. These batteries are ready to pour out on the boy who's underneath of it. If the cart

moves downward, he's going to be covered with acid. So I step in under the cart and by the way, this isn't going to be a hero story just to let you know.

I step underneath the cart. And then I bridge myself that I can put my back on what's left of the hood thing, the canopy. And I tap on both. I go, "Listen," I'm tapping the one underneath who's caught underneath the whole thing. I go, "I don't want you to move." I go, "You just stay here. Do not move."

And I tap the one who's standing and I go, "Listen. Now, listen, I'm going to lift up. And when I lift up, pull your leg out and you slide out." And I tap the boy underneath, I go, "When I lift up, you don't move. Let him out. You just stay. Don't panic. It's going to be okay." So I push up, make like six inches, tap him. He slides out, so we got this other one.

And so I'm in this place that I can't push the cart using gravity because then I would push all the acid over him. So I have to push the cart up. And in my mind, I got the power and the strength to do this. And I go, "I'm going to lift. And when I lift, you crawl out. I'm going to lift it up."

And I start to lift. And soon as I start to lift, I come to the realization, I do not have the power and strength to push this thing off of this boy. As we were running, as we were seeing this thing unfold, I remember running. And then at that moment, I'm saying, "I'm going to watch a kid die before my very eyes and I'm going to be right in the middle of it."

And then out of the peripheral vision, I see the group of people that are starting to run now. I don't know how many people there were, but they were running. But through the cloudiness of all of them, there was one that just totally became crystal clear to me. And it was the one who was leading the pack and coming with a passion and a purpose. And I knew immediately, here comes dad. And I'm telling you, I got a hundred pounds on him, easy.

And he came running and he jumped in beside me. And without me even giving the push by himself, he pushed that whole cart up and off, several hundred pound cart up and off of his son to rescue his son.

And it just spoke so much of me. Even in all my well intent to try to save this boy, I did not have the strength at all. But the heart of the father far exceeded anything of any common man. As the heart of this father came, he could lift mountains to free his son.

And I just saw such a beautiful picture at that moment of our Father in heaven. There you are pinned under the wreckage of your life, pinned under the wreckage of the fall, pinned under being trapped with death or acid spilling upon you. And yet with my heart, I came and I did in one heave, lifted this sin and I did it through a cross to rescue you, because I desired you. I want to dine with you and I want to make you whole.

And all of our faith comes down and starts with that. It's not the faith that believe in creation. It's the faith that believe that worthy is the Lamb. And Christian, if you can just simply believe, worthy is the Lamb on what He's done, then all the other stuff that's before you, then you can step forward in faith and believe He'll do.

Do you want to be made well? You start with believing of the heave of the mighty Father in heaven and what He did to rescue you. Then you can step forward and go, "That's nothing what's before me compared to what you did. But if you could lift the wreckage of this fallen world off of me, surely, then you can come and make me whole."

You want to put your marriage back together? You want to put that addiction that binds you? You want to put that guilt that you can't get over? You want to fill in the blank? We all have a blank to fill in. If you will come and start with the simple faith that worthy is the Lamb, my position, son and daughter secured through the provision. The Lamb of God, because it's always been a Lamb who

takes away the sin of the world, then there is nothing, nothing, that He won't do and can't do. But your part, yes Lord, I want to be made well.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 11:5-7

Title: Faith in Walking and Working

Summary: As we continue in our study of the “Hall of Faith”, the “Heroes of Faith”, all people just like us, all people who proved it can be done, and show us to do it. This study we will look “Faith in Walking” and “Faith in Working” and see that two are inseparable. Do you want a faith that works? It will start by a faith that walks first. Join us for another great passage of Scripture that takes us to faith that pleases God.

Hebrews 11:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. ⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Oftentimes the question is what does faith look like if it cannot be seen, but in actuality, faith looks like something because it can be seen in our walk with the Lord and our working for the Lord.

This chapter doesn't just give us real life examples of people of faith, but it is a diagnostic, a mirror, that we can look into and determine, how is my faith? Am I living a life of faith that is pleasing unto the Lord.

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: The Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)
- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)
- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

2.) Faith in Walking – 11:5-6

(Hebrews 11:5 NKJV) By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

(Hebrews 11:6 NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hearers Knew the Word

The author of this epistle doesn't write a page on the story of Enoch or Noah, just a summary statement of them. Why, because he started with the position that the hearers were well-versed in the scriptures.

[2 Timothy 2:15 \(KJV 1900\)](#) ¹⁵ *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Story of Enoch

Now by the time that Enoch came along, the world was becoming quite sinful. But here is a man who walked with God in the midst of a sinful people. My mind pictures the story something like this, Enoch would take a daily walk with God. And God would meet him every morning and Enoch would walk with God, and fellowship with God. And one morning, God said to Enoch, let's walk a little further today. Bring your lunch along. And so Enoch took his lunch. And they walked and they had lunch together and they continued to walk until finally Enoch said, it's getting late, Lord. We had better head for home. And the Lord said, we're closer to My house, than yours. Just come on home with Me! Or maybe the story would be that they walked and communed so closely that they walked right into heaven and Enoch didn't realize it, because he was looking at his Lord, rather than his surroundings. After sometime Enoch would say well I best be getting home, the wife is probably cooking dinner, and the Lord would say Enoch, you're already home. Whatever the way it was, Enoch was translated that he should not see death.

Faith to Continually Conversate

[Genesis 5:24 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁴ *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

The word walk here means "to continually conversant". Enoch believed that his intimate fellowship with God, his continually conversation, was his key to life. The flood would come upon the world, but Enoch wouldn't be around for it, for God took him home and kept him from the judgement. Enoch was right about his faith in his fellowship with the Father.

Prayer and the Word is a continual conversation with the One who created us, loves us, died for us. We were created with a purpose. If you feel your life is empty, meaningless, void, or lacking it is because you are not living for what you were created for, intimacy with your Creator. I like the Old King James version of Revelation 4:11, which is more clear, we were created for His good pleasure.

[Revelation 4:11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ *"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

[Revelation 4:11 \(KJV 1900\)](#) ¹¹ *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Enoch's Formula / We can't See Him / Walk by Faith

V.5 - for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. Enoch's formula for pleasing God? Walking with God. Webster's Dictionary defines walk as "preceding step by step." It takes faith to walk with Him, because we can't see Him. These Hebrew believers were tempted to go back to the temple because they could see it, feel it, and touch it, the author is saying don't do it, for we walk by faith:

[\(2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV\)](#) *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

Walk with Him and your faith will grow:

[\(Romans 10:17 NKJV\)](#) *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Christian - Listen to what the Spirit speaks to us about walking with Him, making time for our walk:

(Hebrews 11:6 NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Without faith it is impossible to please Him. We can do great things, great works for Him, but not until we reach the point of faith, the point of saying I Need you, is He pleased with us.

2 things we see in this verse if we are to come to Him:

- 1.) Believing He exists and is real.
- 2.) That He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The word, "is, means "to become".

A Rewarder / God is the Reward

Faith believes God is a rewarder of those that come to Him. A Rewarder of things? Possessions? No like Enoch the reward is God Himself, to walk with Him, to know Him as the "Great I Am"

I AM That I AM (Becoming One)

Moses asked God. "Who do I say You are?"

- "I AM THAT I AM," God answered (see Exodus 3:14).

Exodus 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

It means the becoming One. In other words, God said, "I am whatever you need."

- Are you lonely? God is the friend who's closer than a brother.
- Are you confused about what to do? He is the door.
- Are you feeling like you're walking in a haze? He's the Good Shepherd.

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

John 10:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

John 10:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Faith hopes for the unseen because it believes God is!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Not Enough to Believe / Must Seek Him Diligently / Active - not Passive

Faith believes God is the One who will meet the needs deep within my heart. There are those who believe God is—but they don't really seek Him. Why must we diligently seek God? Why isn't it enough just to believe He is whatever we have need of? Because God knows if we diligently seek Him, the very things about which we seek Him will fade in importance as we realize it's Him we want all along. **Faith is not passive, but active,**

I believe most of us have no problem with the first of these two keys to faith. We believe God is. But because we don't believe He rewards those who seek Him, we seek Him haphazardly or half-heartedly if at all.

Make Time

We need to be a people saying, "Lord, we seek Your blessing and Your direction, Your leading and Your provision because we understand You reward those who diligently seek You."

"I don't have time," you might be saying. Not true. We have time to golf, time to see the Ravens play, time to water ski, fix the plumbing, and go to the dentist. Every single one of us without exception has time. We do what we want and make time for what is of value to us.

Through Out History those Blessed

Throughout history, the common denominator in the lives of those who have been blessed is that they have all been those who realize God enjoys our company. And when we seek Him, we're rewarded—not because we're trying to earn brownie points—but just because hanging out with the Lord opens the door to fabulous blessing from Him.

Same True for Us

The same is true for us, our walk, our prayer fellowship, our hearing of His word, if we believe in faith that there is power in these things, then there will be power in it.

3.) Faith in Working – 11:7

(Hebrews 11:7 NKJV) By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Verse 7, "By faith Noah being divinely warned of things not yet seen..." Prior to Noah the Earth was watered by a heavy dew. It had never actually rained. At the time the Earth had a different eco-system - but the same cynicism. Imagine, the cable news reporters grilling Noah. They mocked and ridiculed him. I'm sure Noah became fodder for the late night talk show hosts. Noah reminds us that faith is never popular. (Adams)

Please God – Don't Draw Back

So we will study through some 10 specific names and their stories, another 6 in name and generalized reminded they are men/woman of faith, and stories that add up to literally "millions" of people walking by faith. So the heroes of faith in this chapter, but they are just the few of the many, who were the "just who lived by faith" and did not draw back.

Hebrews 10:38–39 (NKJV) ³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*
³⁹ *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

Christian your greatest testimony of faith will not be walking on water, planting a church, preaching to the multitude, saying arise take up your bed and walk to a lame person. your greatest testimony of faith will to finish faith, finish your race, and not draw back or quit.

V.7 - moved with godly fear Yet Noah was unmoved by the criticism, because he was "moved with godly fear..." Noah cared about God's approval, more than he did his reputation among men.

V7 - Despite the public scorn for his project, he "prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." A faith-filled Noah built an Ark and preached impending judgment. Faith hears what other people don't. It's privy to information other folks lack. Faith is often laughed at... but remember it was Noah who got the last laugh.

You Have to Walk before You can Work

You have to walk with the Lord before you can work for the Lord. Faith in Walking will lead you into action. Noah built an ark 450 feet long, but first he walked:

(Genesis 6:8 NKJV) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

(Genesis 6:9 NKJV) This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Once we start the work, we will need faith in it.

Noah's Story

The flood was God's judgment upon the sinful world. God looked upon the world. He looked at man and He saw that every thought and imagination of man's heart was only evil continually. And it repented God that He made man. God saw that the wickedness upon the earth was great, that the earth was filled with violence.

So God prepared to judge the earth, but there was a man who walked with God. His name was Noah. And God told Noah to build this large ship. He gave him the dimensions. He commanded him then to bring the animals, two of each kind, into this ship, that they might survive the great flood that God was going to send upon the earth. So Noah was about a hundred and twenty years in building the boat to save them from a rain that would cause a flood from rain which no one had ever seen nor heard of before.

Noah's Sermon / Long time to be Obedient

A 120 years is a long time to be obedient. And what an interesting illustrated sermon! People no doubt came all over. They probably ran tour buses to see this huge ship that this eccentric old man was building out in the wilderness or out in the desert area. You would know that you were in Noah's neighborhood because there wouldn't be any trees around his home, all you would see is tree stumps for miles and miles. And when you would ask this old man, what in the world are you building this thing for? He would tell you, there is going to be a flood! Now before this, it had not rained upon the earth. God watered the earth with the dew that came up out of the ground at night. They, no doubt, thought that he was crazy. But he warned them, the judgment of God is going to come! God is going to destroy the earth with a flood!

Noah's Helpers / Signs of the Times

Noah's helper would have been Methuselah (lived a total of 969 years). Many scholars say that Methuselah means, it shall come - speaking of the flood, and he was close to 900 years old when Noah started building the ark. Imagine Noah keeping an eye on Methuselah if he believed the flood would come after Methuselah died, now there is incentive for you, everyday it would be, so how are you feeling there Methuselah? Could you imagine every time Methuselah coughed or sneezed Noah would be like are you ok, sit down, take a break, rest yourself, don't over do it. I imagine Noah wouldn't allow him to work on the scaffolding, saying no you just keep your feet on the ground here, don't want to take a chance of you falling. If Methuselah's nap went a little over Noah probably put his finger under his nose looking a breath. Maybe Noah had hired help, I don't know, if he did, they all missed the boat. Maybe that sounds like some of your workplaces, just keep working and witnessing and leave the rest up to the Lord.

Genesis 5:25–29 (NKJV) ²⁵ Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. ²⁶ After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁷ So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. ²⁸ Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. ²⁹ And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."

But none the less, whether it was Methuselah, or the very clear Word of the Lord, that the flood would come in 120 years, Noah had signs to look at and so do we as we study prophecy that points and show us that God's judgement and return are near.

Genesis 6:3 (NKJV) ³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

Matthew 24:37–39 (NKJV) ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Noah's Son

Interesting, by the genealogy account Noah was given the word to start building the ark 20 years before his first son was born. Yet by faith Noah prepared them a room on the ark, for God had said to Noah, you and your son's. Even though Noah was the town joke, even though the family didn't go to the movies or malls like the rest of the families in town, all of Noah's believed him that the judgment was to come. Parents, keep working, keep preparing a room for your kids, and believe God will save them. Also, it is interesting that Noah knew the end was coming; judgment was on the horizon, yet he still chose to have kids. People struggle with that today, should we have children in the midst of this perverse generation, should we bring a child into this world even though judgment is coming? I say train up a child in the way they should go.....they will see the King. When a sold-out believer tells me they are having a child, I say Praise the Lord, another one for the kingdom.

Genesis 5:32 (NKJV) ³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6:3 (NKJV) ³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

Genesis 7:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Faith in Action

What could keep Noah going? First that he walked with God. And from that walk, when God spoke, he knew it. Noah put his faith into action, into works. Work's, action, will be a natural outpouring of Faith.

(James 2:17 NKJV) Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Why Some people Ministry Blossom

People wonder why some folks are so spiritual, why others seem particularly blessed, why others are used. It's not that God is playing favorites. It's just that those who seem to have a special relationship with God are simply those who chose to keep going. Whether it's in expression of praise, gifts of the Spirit, or aspects of ministry—however far you want to go in spiritual life, God will never say to you, "You're going a little too far. You're getting a little too spiritual." Never

God will take you Deeper / Red Sea / Jordan river

Now, as you step out in "Faith in Working", God will take you deeper and deeper in your faith. With each experience, with each time you see God reward you for your step of faith, He will take you into a deeper maturity of your personal walk.

The children of Israel saw God part the Red Sea, but their next water crossing (over the Jordan into the Promised Land), God says I show you my works last time, now I want you to show me your faith,

Exodus 14:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Joshua 3:14–17 (NKJV) ¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), ¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

The more you work with and for the Lord, the deeper he will take you in your faith.

Application of Faith of Noah

Noah had the Faith to keep walking and working, and not drawing back, in the face of all his opposition.

Genesis 6 tells us four things that were happening at the time of Noah

1. Population Explosion – 6:1
2. Strange and Extreme Sexual Behavior – 6:2-4
3. Evil Imaginations – 6:5-10
4. The Earth Filled with Violence – 6:11-13

Genesis 6:1–13 (NKJV) ¹ Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. ³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. ⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted

their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

You Noah's in the Room – It will Take Great Faith to Keep Walking

Jesus said, now listen you Noah's in the room, Jesus said as it was in the days of Noah so will it be when the Son of Man returns.

Matthew 24:37–39 (NKJV) ³⁷ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Christian, you Noah's in the room, it will take great faith to keep walking and working unto the Lord in these days we live. A key, to faith, is Abel (Faith in the Sacrifice), and Enoch (simply walking with the Lord)

Revelation 5:12 (NKJV) ¹² *saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

But let me ask you this question, who receives the wrath of God? Who does the rock (wrath of God) fall upon. There is such a subtle deception today, and I mean in the church, that the Devil is whispering and people are tuning into.

Matthew 21:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ *And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."*

It is the Pharisaical deception. The Church doesn't want to seem harsh, unloving, critical, and cringes when accused of being any of these. Yes they were critical, judgmental, and unloving.... But their ultimate sin was that they made their own religion up, one that they say no need for repentance, and thus no need for a Savior, as they had their religion down at the Temple, their sacrificial system, and they ultimately rejected the "One", Jesus who was greater than the Temple. Jesus (see Hosea 6:6) flat out told them I am greater than the Temple (which has been our continual study through this Book of Hebrews). He told the Pharisees this, and they wanted to have Him killed for it, and eventually they will be instruments to fulfill the prophecy of Jesus being the final sacrifice, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. Christians today are treading into the Pharisee deception in that they want to preach only love and acceptance, no calling for repentance, no hell to come for not repenting, and only an accepting as you are. They think that is being loving and accepting, but it is leading people into damnation, just as the Pharisees of Jesus day did, by making their own form of religion, which in the end..... was Christless.

Matthew 12:1–8 (NKJV) ¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ² And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" ³ But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶ Yet I say to you that in this place there is *One* greater than the temple. ⁷ But if you had known what *this* means, '*I desire mercy and not sacrifice,*' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Hosea 6:6 (NKJV) ⁶ For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Are we living, can we say, as Paul would? I want to finish as well as Paul did.

Acts 20:17–38 (NKJV) ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of

God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " ³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

It will take great faith to live it out to the end, to live out our faith in the Days of Noah. How will your faith end Christian?

When Pompeii was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, there were many people buried in the ruins. Some were found in cellars, as if they had gone there for security. Some were found in the upper rooms of buildings. But where was the Roman sentinel found? Standing at the city gate where he had been placed by the captain, with his hands still grasping his weapon. There, while the earth shook beneath him there, while the floods of ashes and cinders covered him—he had stood at his post. And there, after a thousand years, was this faithful man still to be found.

Outline

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)
- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)
- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- [Who Is God? \(How Great is He?\)](#)
- [What Does He Think of Me? \(How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?\)](#)
- [What Does He Want Me to Do?](#)
- [What Can I Boldly Request of Him?](#)
- [What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?](#)

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Passage: Hebrews 11:8-22

Title: Faith in Waiting

Summary: The faith that none of us like, the faith of waiting. Give me something to do, give me something that I have some control and say over and I am fine, but put me in a place where I can do nothing but wait and watch, and my faith will be tested to its limited. We see tremendous examples for our encouragement and strengthening from the people spoken of here. Abraham – the Promised Land and the Promised Seed (Messiah), Sarah – the Promised child in her old age, Jacob and Joseph. They all had to wait for promises of God. What might you be waiting for? Join us as we study, “Faith in Waiting”.

Hebrews 11:8–22 (NKJV) ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. ²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Seventy miles, and 159 years (current year is 2022) from where I write this, I believe every one of our lives were determined. I believe that the world we know today, not just America, was shaped and determined. The land we know as Gettysburg. That July 1-3, 1863, some 160,000 soldiers converged for what would turn out to be the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil. Over 50,000 lives lost in that war (to put in perspective USA lost 58,000 lives in the 10 years in Vietnam War). The outcome was the Union Army victory over the Confederate Army, which was the decision battle that most all historians, and military schools, agree sealed the fate of the war. The ultimate outcome was that the States of the South, did not (could not) break away from the United States, and thus America stayed the United States of America. I say Gettysburg determined the whole world, because it was THE United States of America that ultimately settled and determine World War 2, and defeating of pure evil, a man called Adolf Hitler, who had he won the war, the whole world as we know it would have been changed, and our world too, who knows if some of us would have even been born based on how Hitler could have changed, ruled, the whole world.

But here is what is interesting, in that Gettysburg, the bloodiest battle in American history was really a happen-chance encounter. Gettysburg was not a strategic military location as it was not a supply-line route, nor economic strong point, nor key political city. It was farmland in Western Pennsylvania, that two armies pretty much by happen-chance came across each other, a battle begin, and reinforcement came flooding in to expand the battle to what it became.

But here is the bottom line of how it all came about, and why it stayed on that ground and did not move off..... Was the Confederate Army under the great General Robert E. Lee could not see what was beyond the battlefield and the trees, because their scouting Cavalry (under General Stuart) failed in their mission to see and inform, General Lee where the Union Army was, so General Lee felt that he was fighting blindly, he did not have all the information needed to make the best choice possibly, so he felt he had no choice but to fight what was before him, and could not risk moving troops into the unknown.

Had General Stuart scouted well..... informed accurately, who knows what the world would look like today.

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We have looked at Faith in Worship (Abel), Faith in Walking (Enoch), and Faith in Working (Noah), and move now into Faith in Waiting, and Faith in Warring; in all our studies, as we see Noah (build), Abraham (leave and wait), Sarah (follow and wait), and Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph they all had this in common in their faith, they were well informed on the decision they were to make, because God spoke to them. None of them walked by blind faith, not seeing yes, but not hearing no, for God spoke to them and informed them what to do. The decision was by faith, that though they could not see, they had to decide if they would do what God said to do, based on His Word, and based on that He will do what He says He will do, because He is who He says that He is.

His Words Became Their Eyes

And so too it is for you and I here today. God will speak, if we will stop to listen (last week's study – Faith in Walking), and they by faith we step out in Faith in Working, and Faith in Warring (the battles of life in this fallen world, and spiritual world we live), but oh the hardest possibly of all faith, the Faith in Waiting, as we have to wait on what God has promised and spoken.

I remind you, the beauty, that all we read about in the scriptures (and very much here) are written as examples for us, so we can walk by faith, informed by His Word, so we be well pleasing to Him.

Romans 15:4 (NKJV) ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

4.) Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22

The faith that none of us like, the faith of waiting. Give me something to do, give me something that I have some control and say over and I am fine, but put me in a place where I can do nothing but wait and watch, and my faith will be tested to its limited.

We see tremendous examples for our encouragement and strengthening from the people spoken of here. Abraham – the Promised Land and the Promised Seed (Messiah), Sarah – the Promised child in her old age, Jacob and Joseph. They all had to wait for promises of God.

(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham's Story

Abraham's story is from idol worshipper to the land of promise. God called him out from worshipping idols.

Abraham wasn't always a follower of God, he first worshipped false gods and idols:

(Joshua 24:2 NKJV) And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

(Joshua 24:3 NKJV) 'Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

But God called him out of the land and promised him a land, and through him the whole world would be blessed (Genesis 12 and Acts 7):

(Acts 7:2 NKJV) And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

(Acts 7:3 NKJV) "and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'

(Acts 7:4 NKJV) "Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

(Acts 7:5 NKJV) "And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.

Abraham Leaves His Buddies to the Unknown / Then Wait

[V.8 And he went out, not knowing where he was going:](#) So after Abraham turns from idols, God says get up and leave your land, and I'll tell you where you are going when get going. Abraham would have stepped away from all his other idol worshipping buddies, partying friends. He would have left his gang behind, the guys he sat with at the bar, his druggie buddies, and gone to the unknown. God does that today, He tells us to leave the old life behind and come with Him, even though we really don't know where that is, but most importantly, we are getting away from that place which we were in.

From City-Boy to Tents

[V.9 dwelling in tents](#) - Abraham dwelt in tents; even though He was a city-boy. Ur of the Chaldeans was an advanced civilization. Archeologist have uncovered in the area advanced medical center, advanced uses of metal, they found in a house a trigonometry problem that was being worked on, that still mathematicians in Oxford University haven't solved. He had the best of the world, yet he left it, not even knowing where he was going. If you don't know where you are going, you'll know when you get there, but Abraham truly wasn't looking for a place here on earth.

Abraham - This Earth Isn't It

[v.10 - for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.](#)

Why did Abraham embark on such a venture, such a journey? Because he was looking for a city that had foundations, whose builder and maker was God—all the while knowing that what he was looking for would never be found anywhere on the face of this earth. We use tents when we are

only staying somewhere temporarily. We stay in tents when we know there is a house for us to go to for the long stay.

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Never be Person of Faith – If Looking for Fulfillment Here

You'll never be a man or woman of faith if you're looking for fulfillment here. No matter your ministry, your geographic location, your job, or who you marry—you'll not find it here. Like Abraham, don't look for a city that has foundations on earth. Look for eternity, and you'll experience heaven in your heart, and you'll be blessed in your soul wherever you are.

Abraham gives us the Key for Waiting / Tent & Altar

We read through the Scriptures that Abraham pitched a tent and built an altar, that was his life. We will never walk in faith here on earth if we don't first build an altar, for the altar will fix our eyes:

(Genesis 12:8 KJV) And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Tent Mentality / Altar keeps us Focused

We need to hold loosely to this world; but to do that, to have the "tent mentality", we have to have an altar, for the altar keeps us focused and centered, our altar is the cross. If we say we have a tent mentality, that the world isn't here, then living for all we can get out of this world is hypocrisy. We have to have a light touch on this world as we wait for our future home.

Yes we Miss Out

Yes we do miss out on what others are experiencing. I say that because sin is fun for a season, but then eventually it puts us in bondage, but we so often forget that. We watch our friends have it all, we watch people climb the corporate ladder by chewing people up, but we just work hard and with integrity, and so often get overlooked. Guys watch their friend living the Hollywood lifestyle, or girls see their friend getting all the guys looking her way, but we live in obedience, moderation, trading those things that are temporal, for the things that are eternal. And yes it is hard, it is hard waiting, as we watch others get it all, and say why wait.

But that is what faith does, it doesn't trade the eternal for the temporal. Faith doesn't sell itself short.

We have a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God:

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

(Hebrews 11:11 NKJV) By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

(Hebrews 11:12 NKJV) Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude; innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Sarah's Story (over 90)

Genesis chapters 17, 18 and 21. That is, she was over ninety years old, and Abraham was almost a hundred. Now when Sara first heard the Lord promising to Abraham that she would have a son. Your wife, Sara, shall bear a son. She was eavesdropping, standing in the tent, just inside the tent flap, eavesdropping on Abraham on these men that were there. And when they said to Abraham, your wife shall bear a child in her old age, she laughed! Oh, no, come on! And the Lord said, why did Sara laugh? She said, oh, I didn't laugh (and I wasn't eavesdropping). But she did! Interestingly enough, when the son was born, they named him laughter, because it was

just, well, he brought such joy and laughter to them, to believe at that their age, they could have a son. But by faith, she received strength to conceive in that old age because she judged Him faithful, who had promised.

That's the whole thing. You see God is faithful. We may not have faith. Our faith may waiver, but God who has promised, is faithful! And that's the thing you can count on!

(Hebrews 11:11 NKJV) By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Sarah's Turning Point / The God I worship / Has spoken to Me

She had to have faith that would overcome barrenness, her old age, and her husband's old age, she laughed when she heard God's promise, but she is listed here in the Hall of Faith, one of only two woman, because something changed, and she became a woman of faith. When? I say after her encounter in the tent (that's how it appears in the Scriptures). Sarah heard God's voice, she laughs within her, but God says I heard that. **Then she realizes, the God I worship at the altar has just spoken to me.** Sarah no doubt would accompany Abraham to the altar as they would offer the lamb, and believe that God would account that for righteous (Faith in Worshipping). She would realize the God I have sought to draw close to through the blood of the Lamb is now speaking to me. Since He speaks, it shall be.

Maybe you are Sarah Today / Realize the God you Worship has Something for You

Maybe you are like Sarah today, God made you a promise sometime ago, you've been waiting but all you feel is barren, you're tired of watching the others get blessed, others getting all the breaks; and you are tired, depressed, feeling like He doesn't care. Maybe you question that He can ever take away the barrenness or depression in your life and change it into laughter. **We need to realize this, that the God we worship at the cross of Calvary, the one who rose again, is alive, and He is speaking to me, He is leading me, He has something for me. And He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Christian, keep waiting, keep walking, and keep worshipping.**

Martin Luther / take Hold of the Promiser

Martin Luther said to have the faith of Sarah we have to crucify the word "how". We have to quite wondering how He is going to do it, and just believe He is going to do it. Don't take hold of the promise, but the Promiser. When you take hold of the Promiser, then you will have it all.

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Died – Not Receiving the Promise / The Messiah

These all referring to everyone we have just read about since verse one. The promises of what? The promises of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God. They believed it. They looked forward to it. They had the promises of God and they believed the promises of God, but they died in faith, not having received the promise of the Messiah. They had the promise of the Messiah. They believed it and they hung on to it! God will send His Son, the Savior into the world!

Homesick (Study-Pray More because want to be with Dad)

[Verse 13 - strangers and pilgrims on the earth:](#) This isn't our home! The world is not our home! This kingdom of man is not our home. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God. Christian when you say I need to study more, I need to pray more, really what you are saying is that I am homesick, I want to be with my Dad.

God is Not Ashamed / Even in our Failures

[Verse 16 - God is not ashamed to be called their God](#) - Maybe we are ashamed to call Him Dad in certain settings, like Peter, but never.....has He ever said I am ashamed of you.

They grew in their faith, they grew from their failures, and so too will we. Notice none of their walks were perfected: Abraham great man of faith tells Sarah to tell them she is his sister, Sarah laughs at God, they help God out by having a child with Hagar; but God doesn't record that here, He just records their faith.

Like our sins, he chooses to forget our failures:

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

(Hebrews 11:17 NKJV) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, (Hebrews 11:18 NKJV) of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," (Hebrews 11:19 NKJV) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith, Abraham would offer his only son to the Lord. Imagine after all that time of waiting for the promised son, now he is faced with losing his son. Maybe you have experienced that in your life; faced with losing a loved one, or have lost a loved one.

Issac & Ishmael

Genesis 22. The promise was, through Isaac shall thy seed be called! When Abraham was about a hundred years old, Sarah was about ninety. And they had not yet had a child between them. A few years earlier, Sarah, had more or less given up, a lapse of faith. She said to Abraham, Abraham obviously we're not going to be able to have a child. So you go into my Egyptian maid and you impregnate her. And she will become a surrogate mother. I will be the midwife when the child is born. And I will take the child in my lap and it will be as our child. And so Hagar, the handmaid of Sarah bore a child. They called his name Ishmael. Ishmael is now about thirteen years old. Abraham loves him. He is Abraham's son. And so God repeated the promise to Abraham. Abraham, I'm going to give you a son. And Abraham said, let Ishmael live before the Lord. In other words, he was sort of saying, Lord, that's all right. You know, I've given up. Let Ishmael live before You. And God promised to make a nation of Ishmael, but God repeated the promise. He said through Sarah shall thy seed be called. Ishmael is not going to be the heir of the promise. Then later when Isaac was born, God said, through Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Thy Only Son – Doesn't Recognize Work of Flesh

Now, it is interesting that when God called Abram to offer Isaac, God said to him. Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac! God ignored Ishmael. We know that Ishmael was the product of human effort. He was the work of the flesh. And to me it is interesting that God doesn't recognize the works of the flesh. I think that often we are making the mistake of offering to God, our works of the flesh, but we need to realize, God doesn't even recognize them! He only recognizes the work of the Spirit. Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest! Offer him as a sacrifice on the mount that I will show you.

3 Days / Mt Moriah

And so Abraham began to journey for three days from Hebron until they came to Jerusalem. And there, at Mt. Moriah, the Lord showed to him that mount. And Abraham said to the servants, you wait here. I and the lad will go and worship and will come again. And Abraham and Isaac began to climb up Mt. Moriah. And you know the story, a beautiful story of God's provision and Abraham's prophecies. As he called the name of the place, Jehovah-Jireh, he said the Lord will provide Himself a sacrifice, in the mount of the Lord, it shall be seen. And not by accident, not by

co-incident, it was on Mt. Moriah (the top being Golgotha), that Jesus was crucified two thousand later, when God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sin!

Genesis 22:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

God Has the Problem / Abraham's Application

So by faith, Abram, now, Abraham, when God said, take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice, had the promise of God, through Isaac shall thy seed be called. Isaac, at this point was not married, at this point had no children. So Abraham figures, God, You've got a problem! You asked me to offer my son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. And yet you've promised that through Isaac, the seed will be called. So Abraham believed, interestingly enough, in the resurrection, and of course, Jesus was resurrected from the dead. **But he believed in the resurrection. Great application for us, we take upon ourselves things that are really God's problem, and we try to fix them. God doesn't want us to fix them, He wants us to watch Him fix them.**

They journeyed for 3 long days (3 days of waiting, wondering how is this thing going to turn out, in his mind all the while as if Isaac was dead). But we read in Genesis 22: And Abraham said I am the lad will go worship:

(Genesis 22:5 NKJV) And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

Worship / Waiting / Greatest Revelation

This is the first place we see the word "worship" in the Bible, and it has to do with sacrifice, it has to do with yielding to God's will. We see Abraham who pitched tents and built altars everywhere he went, continue to worship, in his "waiting." **Sometimes the faith in waiting brings us to that place where we give up our wants and desires, and let God have His way with us.** For Abraham, a man who dined with God, a man who was revealed from God the destruction of Sodom, it was on that mountain top, in that place of not knowing, he received his greatest revelation from God, of his God. It was there that Abraham got to see the picture of the Messiah some 2000 years before God the Father would sacrifice His only begotten Son. This is what Abraham would tell those faithful in Abraham's Bosom as they waited for the Promised Messiah. Abraham got to act out the crucifixion of God's Son. He realized what his continual worship and altar building was about, he saw why he pitched tents and built altars.

My Brokenness

On the top of my desk is a stack of letters some six inches thick. They are a reminder to me of God's faithfulness, and equally important, His grace. It was when I returned to the East Coast after graduating Bible College in California. I had a Master's Degree, industry experience, getting a job should have been no problem. After month one I realized ok, God is working, He wants to teach me something, use this as an opportunity to show His glory. But one went to two, to three, all the way to nine months. And then, that job was only a temporary job, my friends would tease me and call me a Kelly Girl. I could tell you a whole hour long story of this experience, and the "part 2" that followed in Louisiana, but let me sum it up. It was through this period that God showed Himself to me in a way I had never seen. But first, in order to do that, He had to break me. I was so full of myself, I was so self-dependent, I was so in control, and God had to break me if I was ever to become poured out wine for others. God showed me the deep things within me, the things that could never lead others deeper into Christ. God broke me, and taught me my greatest lesson, **something I could never have learned in Bible College**, or even studying this Word, something I could only learn through experience. It was in this long waiting that God gave me my greatest revelation, that apart from Him, I was nothing, He gave me my greatest revelation – His Grace. That all that I am, for all that I have and do, is because of His grace, because He loves me so much, He gives all these things to me.

Show Me your Love / The Place of Sacrifice

We so often say Lord show me you love me, give me this job, this home, this mate, this ministry, then I will know. But so often God says let me take you down, into the depth of despair, in those

times of waiting, **so that I might give you your greatest revelation**. Let me bring you to a place of sacrifice, and you will be able to see the cost that I was willing to sacrifice for you, to pay, to make you my own. Do you want to know my love for you, let me show you the pain of a Father's heart as He watches His Son bleed to death in front of Him. And maybe there you will receive the assurance that you look for.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(Hebrews 11:20 NKJV) By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

(Hebrews 11:22 NKJV) By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Isaac / Jacob / Joseph

Next we see listed Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. What we don't get in their account is their pilgrimage, we don't get their calling, we only get their finish, a snapshot of them at the end. The idea here is that they are passing on a legacy to the next generation. A legacy of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, they are passing on the promises of God, the promise of redemption and restoration to those who come to the Lamb. They are passing it on to the next generation. Are we passing on to our kids? 75% of the church today, comes into being before graduation day. Parents, adults, our relationships with Christ must be real, so real that it is contagious, and it is passed on to others. I want to finish like these men, a want to leave a legacy, not of me, but of the promises of the Lamb.

(Hebrews 11:20 NKJV) By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

Not much spoken of concerning Isaac (compared to Abraham and Jacob), but what a man of faith he was. Isaac was probably 33 and Abraham was 133 when Abraham bound him on the altar; Isaac easily could have overpowered his father, but he by faith, believed and trusted God.

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

Jacob Knew the Promised Land would Come

Genesis 49. So when Joseph brought his two sons to his father, Jacob, Jacob was old now. He had lost his sight. He was leaning on his crutch. The two sons were brought to him by Joseph. And Joseph brought the sons with the older one standing on Joseph's left so that when Jacob would put his hands on the sons to bless them, the right hand would go on the older son, Manasseh. The left hand would go on the younger son, Ephraim. And so he brought them to his dad in that position so that when he laid his hands on them, the chief blessing would go to Manasseh, the older son. But Jacob crossed his hands! He put his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh. Joseph said, no, no dad, and started to move his hands. And Jacob said, I know what I am doing son, leave me alone. And so he blessed the sons of Joseph by faith.

It says when Jacob was done blessing the kids, he pulled up his legs in the bed and blasted off. If I don't get raptured, that's how I want to go....3,2,1.....Lift-off.

(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

(Hebrews 11:22 NKJV) By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Joseph Knew The Promised Land would Come

Genesis 50. There he was in Egypt, he was made one of the leaders of Egypt. The Israelites came down. There was this vision that Abraham had. And God interpreted the vision that his

descendants would go into Egypt for four hundred years and after that God would deliver them. And so they knew that the promised land was the land of Canaan. It wasn't Egypt.

Genesis 50:25–26 (NKJV) ²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

So Joseph, by faith, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. He ordered them, when God delivers you out of Egypt and you go to possess the land, that God has promised to our father, Abraham, I want you to swear that you'll take my bones and bury them in that land. And so he by faith commanded that when the children of Israel would go to the land that God promised, they would take his bones with them and bury them in the land of promise.

No Pyramid for Me

Joseph was number 2 man in Egypt, right behind the pharaoh, but when death came he said I don't want no Sphinx, no pyramid, nor a monument to me, I want to be buried in my fathers house, in the land promised to my people from God Himself. If God said we will inherit the land, then we will, no matter how long it takes.

Summary: The faith that none of us like, the faith of waiting. Give me something to do, give me something that I have some control and say over and I am fine, but put me in a place where I can do nothing but wait and watch, and my faith will be tested to its limited. We see tremendous examples for our encouragement and strengthening from the people spoken of here. Abraham – the Promised Land and the Promised Seed (Messiah), Sarah – the Promised child in her old age, Jacob and Joseph. They all had to wait for promises of God. What might you be waiting for? Join us as we study, "Faith in Waiting".

Faith in Waiting:

- His Words Became Their Eyes
- But that is what faith does, it doesn't trade the eternal for the temporal. Faith doesn't sell itself short.
- The God I worship at the altar speaks to me
- Our problems are God's problems - Sometimes the faith in waiting brings us to that place where we give up our wants and desires, and let God have His way with us.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 11:23-40

Title: Faith in the Midst of War

Summary: As we close out our study of Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith, the Heroes of Faith, we come to Faith in the Midst of War, for every Christian soldier at some point, faces war in their lives. Join our study today as we see, and can then apply, how heroes of faith fought their wars, in faith.

2 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV)³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1–2 (NKJV)¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, ² to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Our Passage Today

Hebrews 11:23–40 (NKJV)²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. ³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)
- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)
- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

The Compass

Some time ago I was deep in the woods and a sudden fog moved in, my visibility was nearly zero. It was then that I had decided if I am going to be deep in the woods, by myself or with others, that I cannot rely on electronic devices (that can lose cellular signal, and the battery die on me after 8 hours in the woods), no I must always carry a compass in my backpack or pocket. The key to using the compass, is that it is always pointing to true north, so all your navigating with it is based on keeping that dial (arrow) on your true north mark. And so it is for us, whether walking, working, waiting, or warring, we must always keep the dial on true north (God and His Word – the Lamb and the Light). For in the midst of war, it is easy to get confused and wonder if we are going the right way, especially when arrows (darts of devil) are flying at us, and when things get real dark (as they often do in the midst of war, especially long wars). I have found another thing regarding the trial, that there is something within me, my feelings, that say to me go this way, it just feels right, only to find that I am going the wrong way. I have to let my compass, with dial set to true north, always determine the way to go, regardless of my feelings. So too, so absolutely true regarding the Word of God (the Lamb and the Light), that they must supersede my feelings, else I may find myself going the wrong way.

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

5.) Faith in Warring – 11:23-35

Faith in the Warring. We have all been here, a battle that seems to rage and rage, with no end in sight. Like the Waiting, we have to endure the battle wondering if it is ever going to end. But God gives us wonderful examples to us, and the Hebrew readers here, that keep the Faith in the Battle, for the Lord will show Himself strong in them.

Moses had to fight Pharaoh, Joshua went against the fortified city of Jericho, and even the story of Rahab, claiming victory in the battle.

The War for Our Children (11:23)

Faith that Trusts Them to the Lord

(Hebrews 11:23 NKJV) By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

Story of Moses

They saw that he was a proper child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. You see the Pharaoh began to get worried because the Egyptians sort of developed a birth control. The Israelites were having lots of kids. They were healthy and strong. The Egyptians had become sort of soft, you know, living sort of in the ease of having servants serve them. They had all of these Israeli slaves. And so they realized that the Israelis will soon outnumber us. And so the Pharaoh ordered when a child was born, if it were a boy, they were to cast it into the river. They were to drown it. If it was a girl, to keep it because she could be a servant girl. And so the midwives were commanded, when the child was born, to throw the baby boys into the river. So when Moses was born, there was that edict of the Pharaoh, but they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. So they put Moses in the basket and sent him down the river, with his older sister watching from the bushes.

Then Pharaoh's daughter and her servants came down into the river to bathe. They heard a baby crying. They saw the basket. So she commanded one of her girls to fetch the basket out of the river. Here was this beautiful baby boy.

And his older sister, Miriam was hiding and watching to see what would happen to her little brother. And so she ran up to Pharaoh's daughter and she said, would you like me to get a nursemaid for your little child? And she said, oh yes, would you? So she ran and said, Mama, Mama, I got you a job. So they were able to raise Moses and be paid for it by the Pharaoh. He became sort of the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. But all the while as Moses mother and father were raising him at that young age, they would be telling him about the God of Israel – the Great I Am.

Exodus 2:1–10 (NKJV)¹ And a man of the house of Levi went and took *as wife* a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was* a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. ⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶ And when she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" ⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give *you* your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Faith of Moses Parents / War over our Youth

It took faith for Moses parents to put him in a basket, send him down a river, and trust that God would take care of him. It takes faith to be a parent today, we need the Father to take care of our children. God says for us to train them, and to trust Him. As parents we can think everything regarding our children is up to us, and we can grip on them, and try to control their every step, put more energy into their sports, or their education, because we feel we must secure them (and those things are not bad in themselves, but can be when we think that is how we secure them). We must trust them to the Lord, train them up in the Lord, and be ready to send them away on their own, in the arms (maybe even a basket) of the Lord.

(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

There is a war going on for our youth and children, and parents we have to fight for them.

Satan Knows the Scriptures

Now, concerning Moses and the attempt to destroy the children of Israel by Pharaoh, understand this; Satan knows the Scriptures and here we see him trying to stop the promise of Genesis 3:15, the promised Seed who will redeem man from his sin. Satan energized Pharaoh to kill all the male children, we read about it in the book of Esther, and then again at the birth of Jesus, King Herod gives the command to kill all the male children. Satan knows the Scriptures and tries to stop the promised Seed, but to no avail. Satan's plan now is to wipe out Israel, for they are the prophetic timepiece, for without them, the clock stops ticking for the return of Jesus. He tried it with Hitler, he tried it with Saddam, and he is trying it with Arafat right now. In the future he will try it again with Russia (Ezekiel 38-39), but all will be to no avail.

No Man – Program – Govt

Christians know this in warring, know this in your personal walk, know this in the world around you; no man, government, or program can stop the plans of God, and that means God's plan for you also.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The War of the World (11:24-27)

Faith that is Willing to Forsake

(Hebrews 11:24 NKJV) By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

(Hebrews 11:25 NKJV) choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

(Hebrews 11:26 NKJV) esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

(Hebrews 11:27 NKJV) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Moses Chooses the Messiah / Things not Seen

Verse 27 - The things not seen, Moses saw. Takes us back to verse one of this chapter, the definition of faith:

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Train up a Child

But by faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He is our example parents, Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

The Best of the World – Worst of Christ

Moses realized that the pleasures of sin are not lasting. They are only for a season. Because he had a respect unto the eternal verities, he made the wise choice of identifying with God's people rather than to live in the wealth and luxury of the world. Because you are only going to live for a certain number of years here on this earth. And then you are going to spend eternity, either with God or apart from God.

And so Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season: He took the worst thing that God had to offer—the reproach of Christ. People will reproach you when they know you believe in Jesus Christ. They will sneer. They will mock. They will make fun of that position. And that's probably the worst thing that we face, is the reproach of the world because of our faith in Jesus Christ.

But Moses took the worst that the Lord had to offer him. He compared it with the best that the world had to offer him, which were the treasures of Egypt. But he esteemed the worst that God has is better than the best that the world has, because he looked at the eternal aspects.

Sin Fun for a Season

As we discussed previously, sin is fun for a season, the Scriptures declare it right here. We are wrong in telling others that it is not, for they will say if it is so horrible, then why are all friends having such a good time. Then when they do engage in it they will say you lied, because this feels good. It is pleasurable for a season, but like fall turns in winter, sin turns into bondage. It can be like the long dark and cold days of winter. Snow looks so beautiful, but spend a winter living homeless in the northeast and you will look at snow a whole different way. Sin will lock onto you and take you places you never wanted to go. You youth, remember these words, especially when you turn 16, get your drivers license and the world seems to be wide open to you, be careful about your new so-called freedom.

A brief pleasure, with lasting consequences.

No Man – Program – Govt

Christian know this in warring, know this in your personal walk, know this in the world around you; no man, government, or program can stop the plans of God, and that means God's plan for you also.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The Real War – the Spiritual Realm (11:28-29)

Faith that Fights What it Cannot See

(Hebrews 11:28 NKJV) By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

Our Father fights for us – it is unseen battle. Just like the Passover (by Faith), and marching through the Red Sea (by Faith).

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Moses Believed the Passover

That is, when God ordered the children of Israel when He was going to slay the firstborn in the land of Egypt, the final climatic place by which the Pharaoh would then say go. God said, in order

that the children of Israel not suffer the loss of the first born, that they take a lamb out of your flock of the first year. Kill it. Put the blood in a basin. Take a bit of hyssop, sprinkle blood upon the lintels of the doorposts of the house. In the night, when I pass through the land, when I see the blood upon the door, I will pass over that house! The word Passover, then. I will pass over that house!

The Doorpost and the Caph / The Door

It's interesting; sprinkle the blood on the lintels and the doorpost. It would mean the blood was sprinkled in the shape of a cross on the doors of the houses. And God said when I see that, I will Passover the house.

(Exodus 12:21 NKJV) Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

(Exodus 12:22 NKJV) "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

(Exodus 12:23 NKJV) "For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

They were told to slaughter the lamb at the threshold of the door. The remarkable thing here is that for the Egyptian homes, they had a trench in front of the door called the "caph". pronounced "saf"; in its original sense meaning: containing; a vestibule (as a limit); also a dish (for holding blood or wine):--bason, bowl, cup, door (post), gate, post, threshold.

As the Nile river would rise and flood the ground, the waters would flow into the caph and away from the houses. So the Jewish people were told to slay the lamb in caph in the front of the door. Then take the blood that was puddle there and spread it over doorposts and crossbars. The blood would make the sign of two crosses, with a lamb slain in the middle. It was a picture of Calvary. And no wonder that Jesus said I am the door:

(John 10:9 NKJV) "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Where ever the blood of the lamb was, the angel of death passed over. Do you realize that, have you been covered with the blood of the Lamb? It is the only way the angel of death will pass over you. It is what this whole book of Hebrews is about, the precious, superior, blood of the Lamb of God who will take away your sins, and bring you into a perfect standing before God for all of eternity.

(Hebrews 11:29 NKJV) By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

The Wall of Water

That great experience of God delivering them, bringing them through the Red Sea. That took faith for all of them to walk through those parted waters, the walls of water suspended. Based on the depth of the Red Sea, we are talking walls that are stories high. In Isaiah the reference to the parting of the Red Sea it says through the deep, not the shallow:

(Isaiah 63:11 NKJV) Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: "Where is He who brought them up out of the sea With the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them,

(Isaiah 63:12 NKJV) Who led them by the right hand of Moses, With His glorious arm, Dividing the water before them To make for Himself an everlasting name,

(Isaiah 63:13 NKJV) Who led them through the deep, As a horse in the wilderness, That they might not stumble?"

Foolish Scholars

Forget the foolishness of the so-called scholars who said that the waters were really only 6 inches to 2 feet high, so it wasn't really that great of a miracle. Well, even if it was the shallow part of the sea, then a miracle still happened because God would have buried the whole Egyptian Army in 6 inches of water. If you believe Genesis 1:1, then the rest is a breeze.

So they crossed the Red Sea as God divided the waters, holding the Egyptian Army at bay with a wall of flames. Now having the Egyptian Army behind you, wanting to kill you, is good incentive. God will do that for us, just a little help for our faith.

The Long War - It's Always Too Early to Quit (11:30)

Faith that Keeps Marching

(Hebrews 11:30 NKJV) By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

The Story of Jericho

To claim the Promised Land, God's strategy for His people was fairly simple: Drive a wedge through the middle, dividing the north from the south. There was only one problem, however. To do this, they had to take Jericho—a city that seemed absolutely impenetrable because of the thick double walls surrounding it. Certainly as the Israelites marched around the walls once a day for six days, the people in Jericho must have looked down on them and laughed. "That's their army?" they must have scoffed. "That's their strategy?" On the seventh day, however, the impenetrable walls came down.

Steps of Faith / Red Sea – Jordon - Jericho

An impossible task so it appeared. But as we said before in "Faith in Working", God takes your faith deeper and deeper, as our experiences in faith increase, so does God's expectations for us. The children of Israel leave Egypt and God parts the Red Sea, all they had to do was walk through (which took faith). Next (after 40 years – for a failure in faith) they were to cross over the Jordon river into the Promised Land, but this time they were told to step first, and then the waters would part. Now, they are in the Promised Land, and they come against their first battle, the fortified walled city of Jericho. Jericho would be the largest and greatest city to conquer, and God wants them to know right from the beginning that their victories would come through His leading, and His doing. And all His promises were by and through Him, not their power or swordsmanship.

Joshua New Leader / We will Follow

So Joshua is has now taken the leadership form Moses, as Moses died before entering the Promised Land (remember Jesus is greater than Moses because Moses could not bring them into the rest of the Promised Land). The change of command happens in Deuteronomy 34:9. So this is Joshua's first battle, and the children of Israel first battle in the Promised Land. All the people said we will follow you, whatever your plan:

(Joshua 1:16 NKJV) So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

The Plan / Spies / Shock&Awe / Aahhhh

So what is your plan General Joshua, what has the Lord directed you to do. I'm going to send spies in the land to do some intelligence gathering and reconnaissance (Joshua 2:1). Ohhh yea that is smart, great first step, now we know why we said we will follow you. Ok now what? Get the swords out and sharpen them, then what? A shock an awe campaign? Will we lob fireballs over the walls, a barrage of flaming arrows to catch the city of fire and then slaughter them as they run out the gates? Ooooooh this is good, tell us Joshua what is the plan. Joshua says (Joshua 6:3-5) ahhhhh, here is what we are going to do, we are going to get the priests and the ark of the covenant you see, and the all of us are going to walk around the city once a day for six days, and then on the seventh day we are going to walk around it seven times, and the priests will blow the trumpets, and the we will all shout, and the walls will tumble and we shall storm the city, haahaa.

The Faith / Looks like we are Losing / Keep Fighting – Keep Trusting

Now that took faith. And the walls did came down not brick by brick but by faith. Like "faith in waiting", "Faith in Warring", we continue to fight, even when victory looks impossible, even when it looks like we are losing, even when it appears the enemy has the advantage, we keep fighting

in faith, never quitting, but trusting the Lord has a plan far above anything we could ever think up or dream of. Imagine the terror that came upon the people of Jericho when the first brick fell, and then the walls started to collapse around them, they knew it was over,

Imagine had they quit on lap 5 or 6? Christian it is always too early to quit!

The Walls in Our Lives / It's not Role Playing but Faith

Perhaps you are looking at a wall in your own family that seems impenetrable, a wall that appears as though it will never come down. The key isn't counseling, dialoguing, or role-playing. The key is faith.

It's been a Long March / Great – the Only God

"But I've been marching around, working on, going through this situation for a long time," you say. Great—because the longer the wall has been up between you and your husband, you and your father, or you and your daughter—the more you know it can't be brought down by your own effort. Walls come down when God moves in. But until God moves in, you'll just chip away, and frustration will fill your heart. Have faith in God, for when you finally realize that human skill or ability is insufficient, when you finally say, "Lord, if anything's going to happen, it's going to be because of You"—that's when the wall will fall.

It will Come Down / Watch a Miracle – March with God

Oh, it might take a week or a month, a year or a decade. But by faith in God, the wall will come down. How? In a way you would never have guessed, planned, or predicted. The older I get, the less impressed I am with people's abilities to solve problems and the more amazed I am at God's faithfulness if we'll just believe Him. If you think that's a cop-out, join the jeerers of Jericho. But if you want to see a miracle, march with the Lord, and see what He'll do.

The War of Doubt (11:31)

Faith God Wants and Loves Us Regardless of our Past

(Hebrews 11:31 NKJV) By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

Story of Rahab

It's interesting when God brought the children out of Egypt, word in the ancient world spread about how the Red Sea was parted and how the Egyptian army was destroyed, and how these people were coming into the land. Because when the spies came into her house, she spoke about hearing about what God had done for these people. And she realized that God had given to them the land. So she made a deal with the spies, that when the children of Israel would take the city of Jericho, that she would be spared. So they said put this scarlet of rope out the window. And when the city is taken, whoever is in the house will be spared. So I suppose she gathered her family, as many as would, to come into the house. When Jericho was taken, they were slain, except for Rehab who by faith, perished not with them, that believed not, when she received the spies with peace.

Salvation in the Warring

Believer, those of you who are praying for your lost friends and family. May the story of Rahab give you faith to continue in your prayer and witness to them. In the midst of war, that may be all we see is the arrows and the swords, but know that God is working in the hearts and lives of the people, and He breaks down the walls of what seems like impossible odds, and writes His laws on the hearts of men and woman. And some will say as Rahab said:

(Joshua 2:11 NKJV) "..... for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

What a remarkable God, all these things, simply by extending faith to Him.

Parents, you children are watching, to determine if you really believe like you say you do. If you do, they will see you fight, and see you claim the promises of God, that you were willing to “wait” for by faith.

The War that Fights (11:32-34) **Faith that Doesn't Flee**

(Hebrews 11:32 NKJV) And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: (Hebrews 11:33 NKJV) who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, (Hebrews 11:34 NKJV) quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

V34 – rather be the ones that ran (turned to flight), they put the enemy to flight (on the run).

Verse 33 - No doubt, referring to Daniel in stopping the lions.

Glorious Stories / Real People / Not Blind Faith

Glorious stories of faith and the Faithful One. The people we have read about are so human, so real, we see their struggles, their doubts, and their failures. People today want to teach that faith is being perfect, that isn't reality, look at our past examples. They talk about blind faith, no, no, no! There is no such thing as blind faith. The man of faith actually sees much more than a man who has no faith. He only sees what is visible and obvious, but the man of faith sees far beyond and sees much more.

The Next – Hardest Faith / Precious Promise Book / Name-It

This is where the precious promise books stop, this is where the name-it claim-it, faith teachers stop, but God goes on, and He goes on to a place of faith that none of us enjoy, but just as equal as the other 5 we have just studied. It is Faith in Whatever; it is Faith even when we see loss of life, even when we are persecuted without deliverance, it is faith even when we are left destitute.

6.) Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40

The War in Whatever (11:35-38) **Faith even in the Darkness**

Horatio Gates Spafford was a 43-year-old Chicago Businessman who suffered financial disaster in the great Chicago fire of 1871. He and his wife, still grieving the death of their son who had died shortly before the fire, were in great need of a retreat, and decided to take their remaining children to England for a vacation. Their friend Dwight L. Moody would be preaching in evangelistic campaigns there that fall, and so Spafford arranged to send his wife and four daughters ahead of him on the SS Ville du Havre. He planned to follow in a few days.

During the voyage on the Atlantic Ocean, the Ville du Havre was struck by an iron sailing vessel and sank within 12 minutes. Two hundred twenty-six lives were lost – including the Spafford's four daughters. When the survivors were brought to shore at Cardiff, Wales, Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband two words: "Saved alone."

Spafford booked passage on the next ship. As they were crossing the Atlantic the captain pointed out the place where he thought the Ville du Havre had gone down. That night, Spafford penned the following words:

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Spafford lost his business and his children but found comfort in His savior.

(Hebrews 11:35 NKJV) Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

(Hebrews 11:36 NKJV) Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

(Hebrews 11:37 NKJV) They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Hebrews 11:38 NKJV) of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

Verse 35 - And others were - these people had opportunity to flee, or recant, but chose to take the consequences.

Verse 36 - Still others had - now he is talking about people who were in difficult situations, not by their own will, nor were they delivered.

This Faith is in the Father. This Faith says, "I trust You, Lord, in whatever You choose to do in this situation." To me harder than the faith in waiting, the Faith in the Whatever. This is Faith in circumstance that don't make sense, that doesn't seem fair. This is a faith where God asks you not to understand, but just to stand. To stand on your faith believing that all things will work together for good (Romans 8:28).

*(Proverbs 3:5 NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
(Proverbs 3:6 NKJV) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

Faith Teaching

These passages dispute and destroys the "faith teaching" we see on television. The name it claim it, the blab it and grab it. They say you are the Kings Kids therefore you should be wealthy, healthy, and happy. Interesting, these teachers are not down in Haiti teaching this doctrine, they are not in Africa, Nicaragua, or India, but in wealthy areas of the world. My blood boils when I hear people say, if you had faith you would be healed; what a terrible thing to say to person with cancer, barrenness, and blindness.

Talking of happy, here is what Peter says about the people we have just read about, he says they were the ones that are happy:

(James 5:10 KJV) Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

*(James 5:11 KJV) Behold, we count them **happy which endure**. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

The Scourged / Rather be Raptured

Some were scourged, imprisoned, stoned, sawn in two, slain by the sword, destitute, afflicted, and tormented, but they never quit on God. This is truly amazing faith, it is the faith that we quiver at, hope that we never have to prove out. Honestly, if I have it my way, we will sit here and have Bible Studies, watch people get saved, grow in the Lord, play ping-pong, and then get raptured. That is about as much suffering I want to take. But I know should the Lord tarry, someone here will suffer a terminal illness, someone will lose a job, lose a child, 911 could be tomorrow, maybe Christianity could become a crime in this country and we will be persecuted for our faith. I wish it not, but I have to know that being an American won't make me immune to the pain and suffering that most of the world has to experience on a daily basis.

Contrary to God's Love / Go Back to what you Know

Hard times will come, and it is in that pain, due to circumstances beyond our control, that make things seem contrary to God's love. We question, we feel forsaken. We struggle to rationalize

why He is allowing this. We ask, is it something we have done, or didn't do. We ask the question, why me. It is in times like these, when I am faced with things that I do not understand, I go back to what I do understand, God loves me, and has a plan for my life. There is reason that the Hall of Faith is end the epistle, and not the beginning, it is because we needed 10 chapters of talking about the superiority of Christ, talking about our Great High Priest, we needed to hear about where rest is (in Him). This epistle was meant to be read in one setting, and when you came to chapter 11, you are settled on one thing, the Christian life with Jesus Christ is better because we have perfect standing before the Father in heaven, forever! So no matter what happens, He is holding us in His hand, He is there in the midst of our fire and trial:

(Daniel 3:24 NKJV) Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

(Daniel 3:25 NKJV) "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

As Job would say:

(Job 19:25 NKJV) For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

(Job 19:26 NKJV) And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

We live in a Fallen World, but like Abraham we look for a city whose builder and maker is God.

Victory Over / Victory In / Perseverance

In verses 1-35 faith gave those people victory over their circumstances, for these, faith gave them victory in their circumstances.

Christian, perseverance is not getting on through, but hanging on to, Jesus Christ. The Author is telling these Hebrew believers, you may have a great victory over your circumstances, but for some, you will suffer loss, but hold fast to your faith, and you will have victory in your circumstances.

Hold On to Whatever the Circumstances

These Hebrews Believers were tempted to go back to what they could see and touch, the temple and the old ways. But the Author, through the Spirit is telling them to continue in the faith, at whatever the cost or circumstances.....because verse 39-40. And the same is for us:

The War and It's Victors (11:39-40)

Faith the War has Already Been Won

(Hebrews 11:39 NKJV) And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

(Hebrews 11:40 NKJV) God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

It Comes Back To

It all comes back to where we began, "Worthy is the Lamb Who was Slain". The God that I worship at the Altar and Walk with intimately, is the God who speaks to me personally. And from the foundation of the world chose me to be His, because He desires me, and was slain for me, and in all my wars and battles and struggles, I by Faith must remember, the War (Battle) has already been won (2000 years ago) on a hill outside of Jerusalem (called Golgotha).

Revelation 5:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Christian, we do not fight to victory, we fight from victory!

No Man – Program – Govt

Christian know this in warring, know this in your personal walk, know this in the world around you; no man, government, or program can stop the plans of God, and that means God's plan for you also.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

New Covenant Better than All the Others – Red Sea / Lions Stopped

Oh, to have seen the lions' mouths stopped, the parting of the Red Sea, or fire falling from heaven," we say. But in reality, we have experienced something far greater than any of these miracles. The Lord lives in our hearts. He walks with us every moment of every day. He gives direction to us whenever we take time to stop and listen. Although we take all of these things for granted, any one of them would have astounded the Old Testament saints.

They Had to Wait

So God has provided a better thing for us that they without us should not be made perfect. They could not come into the completed state of salvation under the Old Testament laws of sacrifices. It was impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin. They could not enter into heaven before the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus! They were being kept in a holding cell, so to speak.

Jesus would show them the Scars

Oh what a glorious time that must have been as Jesus showed to them, no doubt, the marks of the cross and His suffering and the fact that He had died, paid the price for their redemption! And thus, that portion of the prophecy of Isaiah, which told about the Messiah, who was going to come. How that He would set at liberty, those that were bound and open the prison door, which He did. He led the captives from their captivity on into the heavenly kingdom. So they, without us, that is, without the work of Jesus, could not come into the perfected state. But now God has made possible for us, that entrance into heaven. We don't have to wait! To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! So we look forward to that city, that Abraham was looking for—the Kingdom of God! And we pray Lord, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. And I can assure you that God keeps His word. And one day the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah! And He shall reign forever and forever! Hallelujah, hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Conclusion

The War for Our Children (11:23)

Faith that Trusts Them to the Lord

The War of the World (11:24-27)

Faith that is Willing to Forsake

The Real War – the Spiritual Realm (11:28-29)

Faith that Fights What it Cannot See

The Long War - It's Always Too Early to Quit (11:30)

Faith that Keeps Marching

The War of Doubt (11:31)

Faith God Wants and Loves Us Regardless of our Past

The War that Fights (11:32-34)

Faith that Doesn't Flee

The War in Whatever (11:35-38)

Faith even in the Darkness

The War and It's Victors (11:39-40)

Faith the War has Already Been Won

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)

- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)
- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 12

Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Passage: Hebrews 12:1-13

Title: Weights and Snares (Cutting them Loose and Running Freely)

Summary: How did the Heroes of Faith in chapter 11 run and finish so well? They cut loose the things that were weighing them down, and they avoided the snares that would entangle them. They ran their race and finished well and are a testimony to us on doing the same. Join us for another great passage of power and promises of God

Hebrews 12:1–13 (NKJV) ¹ 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, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Several years ago I did a triathlon (half-mile swim, 25- miles on the bike, and 3-miles running – in that order) when I lived in Louisiana. It was definitely the most grueling athletic experience in my sporting career (actually the most humbling – I came in last place). Now, when I ran, I didn't have my construction boots on, rather I wore my running shoes that were only 90 ounces. For my bike, I stripped it of everything. I got the wrench out and took off everything I could (extra bottle rack, my walkman, my lock and cable) to lighten the bike up, so those things wouldn't weigh me down, so I they wouldn't drain my limited energy. Now my goal wasn't to win, just to finish, so I needed every advantage I could get, so I had to lighten my load. This is the picture that the author is giving us here as he likens our Christian life to a race.

Speaking of that triathlon, finishing dead last in my age group was one humbling thing, but more humbling was a continual statement that I heard when I was on the 25 mile bike ride. And that statement was, "Passing on your left. Passing on your left. Passing on your left," as they would warn me that they were passing on my left because they had to get around me so that they can get on with their race – so embarrassing and humbling.

Today our passage is, cutting the weights and snares that bind us and slow us down so we can run, and run well, run like the wind, run like Olympic athletes, reaching for the prize, the high-calling of the Lord

Philippians 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Weights and Snares (Cutting them Loose and Running Freely):

- Weights and Snares (Running Light) – 12:1
- Looking Unto to Jesus (the God who Sees) – 12:2
- Looking Unto to Jesus (as Living Sacrifices) – 12:3-4
- The Chastening of the Lord (as a Coach) – 12:5-8
- The Chastening of the Lord (as a Father) – 12:9-11
- Get Up (and Get Running Again) – 12:12-13

Prayer

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Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Weights and Snares (Running Light) – 12:1

(Hebrews 12:1 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,

The Cloud of Witnesses

Verse 1a - since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses – Who is the cloud of witness, the ones spoken of in chapter 11, the heroes of faith....

But I don't think this verse here means that there's a cloud up in heaven of witnesses. Everybody that we just read who are looking down at us, cheering us on, it's a nice thought, but I don't think that would be heaven looking down and looking at this mess that's here on earth and all the destruction and depravity and disrespect to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. I don't think that would be heaven. In fact, I think all we would be doing is saying, "Come on, Lord. It's time, but it's great grace." He just holds and waits. He's so gracious and so kind.

Same Power in Them / Same Power Rose Jesus

Verse one, the cloud of witnesses, Romans 15:4, everybody we just read of and those that were mentioned briefly, really, it's just a foretaste of all the scripture of the Old Testament and into the New Testament for us as we look at the early church, that it can be done. As we look at them, we see it can be done and none of us can be with excuse. We all need to look and say, "The same power that rose Jesus from the grave is available to me today. The same power that anointed Samson, that anointed David, that anointed Peter, that anointed Paul, the same power is available to us today that we can live this victorious Christian life and the power to overcome the weights and the snares that so easily entangle us."

Romans 15:4 (NKJV) ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Next Time Wailed / Fiery / Giant

Therefore,

- next time you feel you're being "wailed on," think of Jonah. He's showed the way for.
- Next time you feel like you're in a fiery trial, look for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego the world's heat cant burn you.
- Next time you feel like you're up against a giant of a problem, remember David, the giant-slayer, and take heart.

Remember all of Heroes of Faith in chapter 11, and throughout the Bible – they would say to us today; I've been where you are at, I know what you are going through, maybe even saying I've failed where you have failed also, But don't quit, keep going, the finish line is near.

Rapture Ready

Speaking of clouds, "I'm looking forward to the cloud and being caught up in it." And I think that's something we need to always keep in our forefront of our mind age, accident, or circumstance. I love the thought of the circumstance of the rapture that we're out of here. We're going to meet him in the air.

(1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Verse 1b - let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us -

Weight is Stuff

Now "Weight" is not necessarily sin—it's just stuff. Now it could be sin, or it could be stuff, so quite simply, anything that is drawing you away from the Lord, anything that is keeping you from where God wants you to be, has to go. Remember Abraham:

Abraham had Lots of Possessions

(Genesis 12:5 NKJV) Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

Abraham had gathered a lot of possessions while he was in Haran, but he wasn't supposed to be in Haran he was supposed to be away from his family out of the area of Babylon and moving towards the land of Canaan. My estimate is that it took him 75 years to finally leave the land he was called out of. Along the way in those 75 years he gathered lots of stuff. Be careful, possessions can bog you down and keep you from going where God has called you to go. Having things is not sin by any means, but if they ensnare you, weight you down and hold you back from what God has for you, then they are.

Erastus Didn't Get Bugged Down

Here's a little nugget that we read as we weave scriptures together in Romans 16:23 speaking of setting free from the weight of the world, holding on to a position that we think is secure but just fully trusting the Lord that he'll provide. And it's the companion of Paul in Corinth, we read of him in Romans 16:23 among other places. His name's Erastus and he's in Corinth with Paul and he has the job as the head financial administrator there in Corinth. Do you know what type of job that is? That's like being the comptroller for the state. It's a high job. It's a trusted job. Yet he isn't afraid to be named with Paul, that his job could be in jeopardy being associated with this man, Paul, who turns the world upside down.

*Romans 16:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ Gaius, my host and *the host* of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother. ²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be with you all. Amen.**

And then we're going to read of him that later he's just going to walk away from it all because he feels the calling of God to follow Paul and be part of Paul's ministry. Whether it's in persecution or prison or in praises and amazing revivals, Paul was part of all of them. And here this man, he's not hanging on to anything except Jesus Christ and what the will of God is for his life.

Acts 19:22 (NKJV) ²² So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

2 Timothy 4:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

Erastus Not a Closet Christian

And now I need to add regarding him, he's not a closet Christian in the workplace, obviously. He's not afraid to be named with Paul and the ministry of Paul there in Asia Minor. People know who he is and what his deal is, that's for sure, and they'll know it even more. And I think there's just a place and a power that we need not hide and be closet Christians in the workplace. Live out your

faith boldly and freely. Do your job. I'm not saying go there and be a poor witness by preaching. But I'm saying, if they're going to talk about their sports team that they're a fanatic of, you can truly talk about your Jesus that you're a fanatic of.

Verse 1b - and the sin which so easily ensnares us – sin in your life is an anchor, it is pulling you under, Christian cut the anchor, loosen that load, and you will enjoy freedom.

Sin So Easily Ensnares

As we see in the sin which easily ensnares us, that's an interesting word there, easily, because if you're not watchful it's easy to get snared by it, and when you do, there's a real simple cleansing. You can do it today. First John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And righteousness means not being right with the Lord. Oh, we're sealed as sons and daughters through the finished work of Jesus. When he said, "It's done" on the cross, he meant we're signed, sealed, and delivered as sons and daughters of God. But when we are in a sin, it's an offense, it's a separation like any family matter. It needs to be dealt with so that things can be made right.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Snakes (Eyes – Ears – Wisdom)

Well, I hate snakes, and I know we've been told we shouldn't use the word hate, but I don't know what other word to use because I truly hate snakes. As you've heard stories past of my encounters with snakes, I think it's purposeful that snakes are continually around me.

And so yesterday as I was walking, thinking, pondering, hot sunny day, sun breaks through at the road's edge under the canopy of the woods that shade, but these cold-blooded snakes love the heat and they love to bathe in the sun. But along the road, grass grows. High grass, a foot long, green, thick, and as I walked, one thing I could hear as I walked was the slithering of snakes. They weren't little chipmunks or squirrels. They're the distinct sound of a slithering snake. And so as I walked and where I walked, I knew they may see me before I see them. Highly more likely since I can't see through the grass, but they may be so deep in their sunbathing, I may startle them and be upon them, and instead of fleeing, they'll feel the need to fight and therefore, bite. And I know where I'm at, not all the snakes are just an irritating bite. Some of them are copperheads with poisonous bites.

So I knew they were there and I would look for them continually as I walked, but my plan of action was to walk five feet further in the road, even though that's not a comfort spot for me because I'm in the near middle of the lane. But nonetheless, that was my plan of action to give myself distance between the snakes that are slithering in the grass that I can't see, knowing that they're there but not being able to see. So then what that led me to next that I would have to do was not just eyes observing and being watchful, but ears listening, hearing. Because I have to hear the cars coming upon me because where I'm at, they fly and many times I, when I hear them coming on a normal walk, I step five feet off the road because I can see that they don't see me because they're on their phone or distracted with whatever it is. So now I have to turn and prepare myself to watch the car that it doesn't hit me. I have to turn and keep an eye that I know I don't step into the high grass and possibly be bitten. All of this to which I say, what wonderous works of the devil? Is that not him? How he's in the grass slithering? We know he's there, we just can't see him. We know he waits. When opportunity comes, he will strike. He will bite, poisonous venom at that. Then the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. It's no coincidence that Genesis he is described as the serpent, because that's what he does. And so we have this place that we have to watch the wows of the devil, the ways of the devil, and the point that I make for you in that place that we're called to be watchful and my illustration of it today was my eyes seeing and looking knowing this is what the serpent does, and my ears awake hearing of the blunt force trauma that easily could be upon me. As you know in times past, only two years ago when I got hit by a car and broke my foot.

Which by the way, ever so interesting that road I walk might see ten cars for the whole lap that I'm on. Yesterday, easy 50 cars. It was like a stream of cars. It was like a setup of the evil one trying to push me off back into the high grass where the snake resides.

But do you see, as we have this battle, we have eyes on the wows of the devil that we see and know there's places I don't have to even pray and think because I can just look and see and go, "I know that's where he waits for me." How foolish it would be of me to enter in anywhere near it, and therefore with eyes to see, I just know to stay away and not enter into that. What place might that be in your life that God's speaking to you right now? That he's saying you see it and you still walk so close to it, maybe even been walking into it going places that you know is his home, his high grass that he waits. But then there was the place of hearing and I need to continually have ears to hear what the Lord speaks to me, the continual place in his word and godly counsel that speaks into my ears that says, "You might not see this, but you need to watch where you're walking." And thirdly, there was a place of wisdom and the wisdom told me, "Don't walk there. Walk here, but be guard in both places of his wows and his ways to come." And therefore we must be people of wisdom and what is wisdom, but knowledge applied. We must continually be people of the word. We must continually be people of experience. Once experienced, how do we apply it the next time around? And then in all these places we can and will walk in this victorious Christian life and we will not be in the snares of a devil.

Ephesians 6:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ray Comfort – Countering Negative with Positive

Intrusive Thoughts - Ray Comfort

Every Christian finds himself in a constant battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Our fleshly mind is forever tempted by the sinful pleasures of this world. And the one the Bible calls "the tempter" (Matthew 4:3) pours gasoline onto the fire, often making us feel battle-weary. The "fiery darts" of which the Scriptures speak can seem like the scorching flamethrowers used in modern warfare.

However, for years I have used an effective principle that puts out the flames of intrusive thoughts. I'm talking about sinful thoughts that come in the form of jealousy, lust, adultery, fornication, pornography, pride, selfishness, greed, and even thoughts of suicide. That last one is very common. You're not alone if you find yourself in that battle.

The reason we get these intrusions is often because we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against demonic forces that, since they are spiritual, have access into our minds. These are evil entities that are still at work in the children of disobedience, of whom we were once a part.

But now that we are no longer in the kingdom of darkness, we are told to cast down these evil imaginations: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ..." (2 Corinthians 10:5, KJV).

Here is one of the weapons the Scriptures give. When speaking of fighting off the enemy, the Bible talks about "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." (Ephesians 6:18).

Prayer is, of course, the answer. So, I formulated a positive prayer that is everything the enemy wouldn't like me to pray. When those unwanted thoughts come, they act as an alarm bell for me to pray my super positive prayer.

For example, if a jealous thought enters my mind, that negative thought reminds me to pray my positive prayer. It turns a nasty negative into a powerful positive.

"Formulate a number of applicable and faith-filled powerfully positive prayers—the sort of thing that the enemy would hate—and pray them every time a fiery dart enters your mind."

If it's a lustful thought, I pray that God would cause me to love purity. If it's a jealous thought, I pray that I would get so much love in my heart that there'd be no room left for jealousy. And, I always pray in faith—knowing that "whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22).

So, formulate a number of applicable and faith-filled powerfully positive prayers—the sort of thing that the enemy would hate—and pray them every time a fiery dart enters your mind.

Doing this really works, but you will have to be diligent and disciplined. Satan's subtle weapons are distraction and discouragement. That's why, right now, you should take a few minutes to write out those positive prayers. Keep them handy, and go over them until they are part of your memory.

Then, bring each applicable weapon out of the armory when the enemy reminds you to pray. He will then make you strong where he wanted to make you weak. Instead of turning you toward sin, he will be turning you toward God.

You can learn more about this constant battle in "Two Prayers" in The Evidence Study Bible.

Romans 16:19 – Be Excellent

And speaking of those snakes, Romans 16:19 says the excellent and what is good and innocent of evil and the God of peace will soon crush Satan underneath your feet. It's going to be an ongoing battle, but the call's real simple. Be excellent, above reproach for what is good, and be

innocent. Have no connecting to evil, the things that ensnare and make you run with weights on your feet. God wants us to run freely with power and passion.

Romans 16:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

It's a Marathon / Jesus Our Example

Verse 1c - and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,- The race before us is not a sprint. It's a marathon. We're in it for the long haul, gang. Spiritually condition yourself as if you have another 75 years here on this earth. Invest in your study and prayer life. But minister everyday as if it was your last day on this earth.

For an example of One who ran the race with patience, look to Jesus. You Bible Highlighters, mark this one up, it is glorious:

Looking Unto to Jesus (the God who Sees) – 12:2

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus for the Joy / In the Garden

The course Jesus ran wasn't easy, but He knew on the other side of the finish line, joy awaited Him. You've heard me say this before, I personally believe that when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed specifically for me, and that He prayed specifically for you. Thoughts of us ran through His mind:

Psalms 139:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jesus for the Joy / On the Cross

I personally believe that when Jesus was hanging on the cross, He was specifically thinking of me, and that He was specifically thinking of you. He never stopped thinking of us while He formed us in our mother's womb, and He never stopped thinking about us on that cross.

Verse two, He numbers thoughts towards us (innumerable is the count), but he doesn't number us. We're anything but a number. We are the very heartbeat of God, because he did this all for us because he wanted us. He wants you. He loves you. He calls you today: "Come, come and see."

Psalms 139:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

The Thought of Separation was His Power

Verse 3 – the author says “consider Him”. The thought of us separated from Him was the power that would make Him endure the opposition of sinners. He was drenched in their spittle, pelted with their curses, beaten with their fists, and crowned with their thorns, scourged, and then hung on the cross, considering it worth every lash of the whip, every pound of hammer, so that you, I, we, would have this perfect eternal life in heaven, and not the damnation of hell which we all deserved and earned through our own willful sin. My mind still has a hard time comprehending this, but with every lash, with every gasp for breath on the cross, He would think of me and say he is worth every bit of this. The thought of him being separated from me, is more painful than this cross.

When I look to Him, how can't I love Him, I love Him because He first loved me.

(1 John 4:19 NKJV) We love Him because He first loved us.

A Taste / The Thief on the Cross

Verse 2 - For the joy set before Him - I believe the Father gave His Son a sneak preview of this joy even as He hung on the Cross. You see, when one of the two thieves who hung on either side of Jesus said, "Remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (see Luke 23:42) it was as if the Father gave His Son a taste of the joy that would be His when an entire world would have the opportunity to follow the thief's example.

God does that in our trying times, right in the middle He will give us the taste of the victory that will come on the other side of the battle. Today you will be with me in paradise.

Verse 2b - and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Again there was no seat in the temple, because the work of the priest was never done, but Jesus, is seated at the right hand of the Father because His sacrifice was once, and for all. It is Finished!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! As He cried from the cross.

Look at Jesus

Verse three, it's a continual word of Jesus to you, to me. May we never forget it. May we never think that it's something that we move on from, that it's milk. It's the deepest and greatest feast that could ever be put before us when Jesus says, "Look at me." He constantly says "Look at me." We look at him through the gospels and how he loved people, how he offered salvation, yet how he gave free will to reject. We saw him as a shepherd move with compassion, and his compassion leads people to come and hear him teach in the heart of God, spoken to them. In all of our greatest needs, we first begin with looking at Jesus, and there's the calling for us as we run this race. Eyes fixed upon Jesus. He's the ultimate horizon. He's the ultimate end point that we're looking forward to. But then the power that's spoken as we look back, and let's take a look at verse three and four.

When Jesus, looking upon them in love,

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to set them free – from them!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to make them a rock, solid and sure in my faith!

John 1:42 (NKJV) ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to dine with a sinner such as them, regardless of my past!

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to teach them His Word, which is His very Heart.

Jesus wants to give them His heart!

Mark 6:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring them, before they ever even saw Him!

John 1:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to make them whole!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well

Looking Unto to Jesus (as Living Sacrifices) – 12:3-4

(Hebrews 12:3 NKJV) For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.
(Hebrews 12:4 NKJV) You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

I like the NIV translation of this verse:

(Hebrews 12:4 NIV) In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Sweating Drops of Blood

We sweat at times because of things we go through. But we have never sweat like Jesus did, for in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing the Cross awaiting Him and the challenge before Him, Jesus prayed with such intensity that the capillaries in His forehead burst, causing blood to flow down His face. Had He so chosen, He could have backed out at this point. Instead, He prayed, "Not My will, but Thine be done." Truly the victory was one in the Garden, because at that point Jesus was steeled to the cross, and nothing could sway Him from the Cross. The author is saying have you sweat drops of bloods like Jesus did.

Hall of Faith Tied to Running Free (It is a Way of Life)

We're being told in this passage, as we start the call to faith, to live lives of faith like who we just read in the hall of faith, but the words being spoken, the way to live by faith and to run that race of faith, has to be running it without weights around our ankle and sin around our waist, grinding us and binding us from running with endurance. Because the life of faith is a life, an entire life, a whole life. It's a way of life.

Living Sacrifices

Hebrews 12 and Romans 12 all tie themselves together, living sacrifices. A life that says not my will, but your will. Ask the 3 boys in the fire, ask David before the giant, ask Stephan before the stones.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Jesus had Hope in the Finish / You'll be glad you Endured

Jesus had hope in the finish, therefore let us have hope in the Finisher, and we will have hope in the finish. When all is done, you will be glad you endured. When you look back at the trial or temptation, when you look back at the end of your life, and when you look at Him face to face, you will be glad you endured.

We are Called to Finish

Verse three and four, and a great example that Jesus gives us: When he said "It's done," he fulfilled his ministry to the very last breath of his life. And you know, Christian, there's a call for us. We're called to finish. And so many times people start and they start so well and they run so hard. Then they start letting up in the mid-stretch. Then they can't even be seen in the final stretch. Whether they walk away or just fade away, it's not for me to determine. But what I know and what I see with these words of Jesus there upon the cross spoken here in this passage before us is the calling to finish. We're to be finishers, and we're to finish well, finish strong. You know what I believe there is a finish line that is nearer than we realize. As I look at the world around us and all the things spinning and faster and faster and going its way in the wrong way, I know that he's going to be saying "Enough, come up here." And we're going to get up in that cloud. And so I pray that the spirit is speaking, not just teaching, but drawing men, calling men to finish, be finishers, and finish well for the glory of God.

The Chastening of the Lord (as a Coach) – 12:5-8

(Hebrews 12:5 NKJV) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV) For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

(Hebrews 12:7 NKJV) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

(Hebrews 12:8 NKJV) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

We can take hope in the discipline, the chastening of the Lord, though it may be uncomfortable at times, we can take hope because it means we are His kids.

The Transition / The Coach

Quoting Proverbs 3:11, 12, the author seems to change metaphors from running a race to disciplining children. But in reality, the best coaches are like dads. Yes, they get in the faces of their athletes from time to time—but it's because they want them to succeed, to excel, and to finish the race set before them.

The Chastening

"Wait a minute," you protest. "If the first eleven chapters of Hebrews are true, how can it be that here in chapter 12, all of a sudden we're talking about a Father who scourges His son? If it is true that He doesn't remember our sins and iniquities (8:12), and if it is true that we are completely sanctified through our High Priest, Jesus Christ (10:10), then how can God punish us for sin He doesn't remember or doesn't see?"

I submit two points for your consideration in this very important matter of the chastening hand of God:

- First, God's chastening is never punitive. It's corrective. For whom the Lord loves He corrects.
- Second, God's chastening is never confrontational. It's consequential. Whatever a man sows that shall he reap.

As believers, every sin we commit is forgiven. But even as believers, every sin we commit brings repercussion. Brethren, if you can sin freely, and get away with it, then I would be greatly concerned why my Heavenly Father isn't correcting me.

Come Just as You Are

Whether you realize it or not, there's a great message that the Lord speaks to all of us, every one of us, when he speaks about sin, snaring, discipline, coming, the chastening of the Lord. He speaks to you, he speaks to me, "Come. Come to me. Come just as you are." Do you see the beautiful promise that's being spoken of here in that you come just as you are and he will take you and shape you and mold you into the beautiful vessel that he intends for you to be, and that we need not hide from him, need not hide behind some facade or something that we kid ourselves with? But he speaks and says, "Come just as you are. I know you're a sinner and you always struggle with sin until the day you reach heaven's shores."

But in this today, he will speak to us, correct us, give us the power to overcome and live the victorious Christian life, and that victorious Christian life, the life that's more abundant, "I've come that they may have life and have abundant." It's going to be one that isn't bogged down by the weights of the world and the snares of sin and what a beautiful promise that we can read between the lines here spoken to us.

The Chastening of the Lord (as a Father) – 12:9-11

(Hebrews 12:9 NKJV) Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

(Hebrews 12:10 NKJV) For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

The Father Corrects for Holiness

The idea here is that our earthly fathers corrected us lest we be an embarrassment to them. Everything God does in correcting us is not because we are an embarrassment to Him, but because He wants the best for us. And the best for us is that we drink deeply of His holiness, His wholeness.

Earthly Father vs heavenly Father

Please, if your earthly father was evil to you, or abandoned you, please don't confuse your earthly father with your Heavenly Father. Your Heavenly Father loves you more than your earthly father ever will, and your Heavenly Father will do anything that is good for you, including giving His only Son for you.

Vibrant Life – Not Black & White

A thought as I consider laying aside every weight as we're called to do. And I'm so thankful to the Lord as we began chapter 11 and saw His wonder and His creation and speaks of His power speaks of His genius, but it speaks also of His creativity, the uniqueness of every design that God has. But along with that, creativity is the poetic beauty, artistic work of our God. In many ways, as we look around, he's so far from just being some bland, black and white, or even if it was a black and white and gray in between, but no, our God gives us these vibrant colors and mind you, we're looking at them through a fallen nature of our eyesight. We don't even see what the colors are truly were before the fall. Maybe not even what the colors of the whole world and universe and earth are post fall, but even with that said, oh, the vibrancy and the brilliance, the beauty of the color and the color scheme around us. I'm just so thankful for color the bright and the darks and everything in between. And as I look And I see these great colors, it just speaks a story to me that God wants us to live in the vibrancy and the brilliance of a colorful world and a colorful life. And we don't live, We're not designed, We're not meant to live in black and white in the midst of gray. He said that I've come, that they have life, and that more abundant, there are things in our world and in our life that are clearly black and white, but even in the midst of them, there's a vibrancy of color that explodes the heart of God that He calls upon us, heart of God for us. And I want that life that's vibrant and beautiful and hence our point of our passage today. But weights and snares are truly things that kill, the weights and snares, they entangle us and they turn the abundant life, the colorful, brilliant, beautiful life into some things that are just dark and gray colorless. And Lord, I pray that you would speak to our hearts to the things that rob us of the brilliance of the beauty of the world and the life that you have for us. And I pray this in your name. Amen (so be it).

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(Hebrews 12:11 NKJV) Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

No child says, "Oh, boy, I'm being disciplined!" No, it's grievous. Nevertheless, the fruit, the result of discipline is sweet indeed.

We can take hope in the warnings that He gives us, for they are loving directions to keep me on the right path, to bring me to that perfecting place He desires for me.

Get Up (and Get Running Again) – 12:12-13

(Hebrews 12:12 NKJV) Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

(Hebrews 12:13 NKJV) and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

This is great! The exhortation here is, "You've been disciplined. You've been injured and sidelined by your sin. But you've been healed by your Father. Now wipe away your tears and get back into the race, where you'll be able to run better than before."

Hands – Knees – make Straight

Verse 13, do you have feeble hands? How do you strengthen them? By raising them. Even when it feels like you're pushing 250 pounds, maybe after a sin, after a fall, after a failing. You're going to feel like bench pressing the weight of the world, but you lift your hands unto the Lord in praise. You say, "Though I've failed and though I've fallen, I stand and I lift my hands and I praise you because of your grace and your mercy and your love. And I know that you bring me back and you call me back and you've never left me. And I praise you with strengthened hands." And you'll find strength in those hands to get up and to push the weight of sin off of you and the weight of the world.

And bended knees, feeble knees, a time that you just come and bow before him and speak truths, speaks truths of who he is, speaks truths of what you've done, speak truths of all of his promises and then make a purpose. Make your straight path. Make your path straight. As John the Baptist would declare: "Make way. Make the path straight for the way of the Lord." And that's what they do. When a king was coming to town, they would clean up at least the last mile of road coming into that town. They'd take the potholes and fill them in, and they'd straighten out the road that it was a straight shot. Many would even put flowers and plants and all those things in that last mile coming into the town. And that's what we need to do with our hearts and say, "Lord, I prepare the way for you to come into my heart. Come into my place. Come into me, Lord. I ask you to come. I prepare the way. I make way the straight. I'm not go into the left of the right, but I'm coming straight to you. And I'm asking you to come straight to me, and I know that you will."

And again, it's a power verse for us. It's a calling that we can come before him. We can cry out to him: "Lord, I'm making the way straight. I'm getting on the straight way so that I can run the race with endurance." And then we have conversation: "Lord, speak to me." And you stay as long as it takes. You stay until you hear. Don't you worry about anything else. God will take care of anything else, but you speak to the Lord: "What must I do to make the way straight?" And he'll speak to you of what needs to go and what needs to come in to get these things straight.

Conclusion

Weights and Snares (Cutting them Loose and Running Freely):

- Weights and Snares (Running Light) – 12:1
- Looking Unto to Jesus (the God who Sees) – 12:2
- Looking Unto to Jesus (as Living Sacrifices) – 12:3-4
- The Chastening of the Lord (as a Coach) – 12:5-8
- The Chastening of the Lord (as a Father) – 12:9-11
- Get Up (and Get Running Again) – 12:12-13

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Passage: Hebrews 12:14-29

Title: How do We Escape Bitterness? (By Coming to the Mountain – Both of Them)

Summary: We all have our times of bitterness for various dealings in life, and so how do we keep the “root of bitterness” from choking out all the sweetness of a God-Life? The answer is coming to the two Mountains the Lord speaks of in this passage (Mount Sinai, and Mount Calvary). Join us as we discover to choke “out” bitterness, rather than allowing it to choke us out.

Hebrews 12:14–29 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; ¹⁶ lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. ¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “*And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.*” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “*I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.*”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “*Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.*” ²⁷ Now this, “*Yet once more,*” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

How Do We Escape Bitterness?

- Pursue Peace (Run Swiftly After It) – 12:14-17
- Come to the Mountain (Both of Them) – 12:18-24
- Let God’s Holy Fire Burn the Root Away – 12:25-29

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

How Do We Escape Bitterness?

- Pursue Peace (Run Swiftly After It) – 12:14-17

(Hebrews 12:14 NKJV) Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

(Hebrews 12:15 NKJV) looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Bitterness - Sour

Bitterness, just the word conjures the emotion of it. Bitterness means sour, acid, acidic, pungent, tart, biting, vinegar, everything opposite of sweetness. Bitterness affects our relationship with a person specifically, but do not miss that bitterness affects our relationships with all people because bitterness is a root and then, therefore, that root spreads to everywhere else that the

vine is and grows. Ultimately, as we see, bitterness brings us to fall short of the grace of God. Therefore, ultimately, it even affects our relationship with the Lord and the sweetness that it's purposed to be.

It's a Root

Notice the word root. Root can't be seen. It's underneath. It's underlying. Really, the only person that knows the root is there is anybody who knows it themselves as they examine their heart, but I think it's also something that can be seen by people's actions and how they carry themselves that we can see there's a root underneath of what they speak and what they say and, of course, it's a direct acknowledgement to our very person ourself.

A root can't be seen, but it's choking out nonetheless. The root keeps going. One of the things that roots do, especially bad roots, is they rob the good soil. They rob the good nutrients. They rob the good hydration, water and the likes. Roots compete and, for some reason, it seems that roots seem to win and overcome and, hence, choke out.

Our passage comes right after verse 12 and 13, speaking of lifting up of hands and feeble knees and making our path straight, and so it's a continual theme. As we've seen, God will chasten whom He loves. He comes and He speaks of the chastening as He addresses bitterness in our lives as we have or may have bitterness towards the people in our lives, for that is part of a weight and snare (12:1-2):

Hebrews 12:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² *Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.*

Mind you, we're in the flow of laying aside every weight and sin, and so the author here by inspiration of the Holy Spirit is speaking of these weights and what a perfect picture of a root entangling us. Whether it's the weight of the world or a sin of the flesh, the root entangles us and keeps us from running swiftly that race that we're called to race and run freely and to finish well. We're all called to finish, not just start, but to finish and to finish well. It's easy to get into the mid-stretch of our long race and get tangled up with things that we never let, would let us touch us beforehand, but, of course, bitterness has a way of continually rearing its roots deep. I shouldn't say rearing its head, but anchoring its roots deep within the ground from the time we're saved to the time we'll be home with the Lord.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *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, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Pursue

V.14 - Pursue, means "to run swiftly in order to catch". Paul used the same word in Philippians 3:12:

Philippians 3:12 (NKJV) ¹² *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*

Interestingly the Greek word is used interchangeably with "pursue and persecute". Here are the first and last uses of this Greek word in the New Testament:

Matthew 5:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Revelation 12:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*

Physical Response to Bitterness

Plenty of studies regarding the mental place of bitterness in the mind and how it affects the body physically, and those studies say that bitterness creates acid in your stomach, which then of course burns on your heart. Of course..... because bitterness is acidic! Just for the very physical reason, the call to choke out bitterness from our thought life before it chokes us out.

Follow the Flow / Watch out for Bitterness

Follow the flow here, because it's intriguing. We're in a race, surrounded by witnesses that was before us on. We're to keep our eyes on Jesus, who is our example of how to run. We're to lay aside the stuff that slows us down. We're to realize the Father so loves us and wants us to win that, when necessary, He will discipline us. And we are to be careful of bitterness. Why? Because after we've been disciplined, we're vulnerable to bitterness toward those who enjoy God's grace.

Why do they Get Away with It

"How come he's getting away with that? Why is she being blessed? They haven't been to church in three years, while I haven't missed a service in ten! How come I'm getting busted and they're not?" In this way, if we're not careful, the grace of God in the lives of others can actually produce the root of bitterness within us.

Truly, the tendency for us, like the prodigal son's older brother of another parable, is to murmur and complain when grace and mercy are lavished on those whom we deem undeserving. And it ought not be—for the root of bitterness is far more deadly than it appears.

I Remember

I remember when I first got saved, I remember how the Word sunk deep within my heart. I knew there were those things in my life that God said had to go. But I remember my friend. He had been saved his whole life and I never knew it, he went and did everything that the rest of us did. He met a girl who had just got saved, they started to go to church together, and started following Jesus, in every way except one (purity). Now I get saved, we start hanging out together, and honestly, I started to get bitter – bitter at him, and bitter at God. I said this isn't fair, I'm obedient and alone, and he is disobedient and blessed. And then the Lord spoke to me, and He said, you're not upset about his sin, you are upset because you can't have that sin. Then a most wonderful thing happened, like Sarah, I realized that the God I sought to draw near to, had just spoken to me, clearly, and I was blown away, even if it was a word of correction, and He told me every sin will have its repercussions. And secondly, it was years later, God showed me, see how your obedience, has paid off in the depth and maturity of your walk with me. For I looked back and saw Christian friends whom picked and chose where they were going to be obedient, and now it 12 years later and I see how they have robbed themselves, for their spiritual maturity hasn't grown at the rate of those who chose to be obedient. They traded the moment, for the future, like Esau did:

Bitterness – Falling Short of Grace

V.15 - Notice, bitterness is the result of "falling short of God's grace."

I (story told by Pastor Sandy Adams of CC Stone Mountain) have a friend who struggled for years with bitter feelings toward the woman who murdered her mom. She thought she'd made progress until she saw a gal at work who looked like her mom's murderer. The mere sight of this woman triggered all sorts of bitter feelings. To make matters worse the woman's office was four doors down, so she saw her constantly. My friend knew she had to overcome her bitterness. One day she approached the woman, and the two women introduced themselves. When my friend heard the woman's name, she was stunned. It was "Grace." That's when the Holy Spirit spoke to her - the key to overcoming bitter feelings is to recall God's grace toward you. Folks who know grace will show grace. When we realize all that God has chosen to forgive us; how can we then withhold love from others? From then on whenever my friend saw "Grace" she was reminded of the power of God over bitterness!

It's been said:

Bitterness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die.

Others Become Defiled – through Your Bitterness / Blood Bought

Verse 15 - and by this many become defiled; - Remember, others become defiled in the root of bitterness, and especially I would add when it is another brother/sister. Remember beloved, they are blood bought! They are made of the same stuff as you, and are filled with the same God, they are made in the image of God, and bought by the same nails of the same cross.

(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Profane = Fornicator

Profane means “godless”, to make of no value! This is where Esau was, he put no value on the things of God. Liken being profane with fornication. As we will see next chapter to keep the marriage bed undefiled. Meaning to reverence it, to make it holy, not to make it common.

Esau sold his birthright—that which would have given him leadership spiritually and a double portion financially, all for a quick meal.

Recap Esau & Jacob

You remember the story (Genesis 25), he had come in from hunting. He was wearied. He was weak. Jacob was, well, we would probably call him a sissy. He was a mother’s boy. He was great around the kitchen. Esau, hey, he hunted and fished and he was sort of a man’s man. He had been out hunting. He came in. He was tired. Oh, Jacob has been in the kitchen, cooking some lentils, spicing them up with some onions and garlic. Oh, it smells good! Hey brother, give me some of those lentils. And Jacob always willing to take advantage of another person, said, I’ll tell you what. I’ll trade you a bowl of lentils for your birthright. Esau said, sure why not? He sold his birthright for a bowl of lentils. He didn’t care about it. He wasn’t spiritually minded. He was a man of the world. His interest was in material things. And so he was willing to sell the birthright for a mess of pottage.

Esau no Spiritual Appetite

Not until later, he discovered that the birthright, with the birthright, went twice the inheritance! And he realized, wow, he’s going to get twice as much from the old man as I am, because he has the birthright. And that’s the thing that upset him! No doubt he “stewed” over it continually... anyways. He didn’t really have any spiritual longings and spiritual desires. Genesis 26:34-35 we read of him marrying foreign woman, all that brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Not a Misunderstanding – Can Tell by How They Reacted

Verse 16 and 17, Cain and Esau, they weren’t misunderstood or misunderstanding, as we can look and feel, that they were wronged or slighted in some way. Cain made his sin and came against his brother, Abel. It had nothing to do with his brother, Abel. It was a bitterness and the root of bitterness that was in Cain that he saw in his brother, but it wasn’t his brother that caused it. When we look at Esau, hey, he sold that birthright way long before Jacob, yeah, the conniver, tricked him, along with the help of his mother, with the goat hair upon him and all those things and the father, Isaac, laying his hands on him and given him the blessing. Esau had given up that blessing long before Isaac had laid the blessing upon his hand as he was willing to sell himself out for a bowl of lentils, taking the immediate over the eternal and the permanent.

We know it because we see it in their reaction, how they reacted, how they were affected by these things, as we look at Cain murdering his brother, we look at Esau (Genesis 26) marrying a pagan woman just to get back at the parents and these things.

*Genesis 26:34–35 (NKJV)*³⁴ *When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.*³⁵ *And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.*

Genesis 4:3–8 (NKJV) ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." ⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

The question for all of us here today, how do you react when something just doesn't go your way? Maybe someone you feel has slighted you. Maybe you feel God has abandoned you, left you. He didn't deliver the way you thought that He should. Regardless of it all, we still get to choose. How am I going to react to this? Am I going to become bitter and let it start choking, or am I going to use it to let it choke out all the cares of the world, let it choke out and let the world be seen for what it truly is, fleeting, fading, and then call and seek the Lord? Well, God gives us the way out of bitterness, and it's looking at these two mountains. It's looking at and the calling to come to the mountain and what I would say, as we read these verses 18 through 24, come to the mountain, both of them.

Tears without Repentance / Could have been #2

Afterwards he goes and says want the blessing (Genesis 27), I want the inheritance, but it was too late for the blessing had been given to his brother Jacob. It says he sought the blessings with tears, but not with repentance. He wasn't willing to turn from his ways, but still wanted the blessings.

Now Esau didn't end up with nothing, just that his brother Jacob got twice as much. Do you realize Esau still could have been number 2, he still could have followed the God of his father Issac and grandfather Abraham. Like Cain, God would have given him another try, God would have blessed him:

(Genesis 4:5 NKJV) but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

(Genesis 4:6 NKJV) So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

(Genesis 4:7 NKJV) "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Instead Chose Bitterness

But he chose not to. Instead he became bitter and instead of turning to the God of his fathers, he turns to marry more foreign woman (Genesis 28:6-9). Being number 2 would still have been a blessing, but he chose not, instead he chose a life of bitterness that would bring grief upon his family.

When Resenting – Never Repenting

Realize, bitterness is a blocker. It impedes God's work in your life. As long as you are obsessing over the other guy's crimes; then you'll never deal with your own. When you're resenting, you won't be repenting.

Blow it All the Way / A New Testimony

Esau took the "if I'm going to blow it – might as well go all the way". Here is the warning to us, for those who have fallen, don't go the way of Esau. Someone may say, well I've already lost my purity, what's it matter now. Well I've already taken a toke, what's it matter now. No, no, stop, repent, and start building a new testimony, a new beginning today:

(Lamentations 3:22 NKJV) Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

(Lamentations 3:23 NKJV) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

The world around us is shaky at best, but we can take hope in the things of God, His promises, his Word, His Son, for they can not be moved or shaken, and they give us a solid foundation on which to stand.

How Do We Escape Bitterness?

- **Come to the Mountain (Both of Them) – 12:18-24**

Jesus is Better

In the last half of Chapter 12 the author of Hebrews sums up the theme of the entire book. Through Jesus, God has made a New Covenant with His people that replaced the Old Covenant He made through Moses. A better way has been established for mankind to relate to God. There's no reason these Jewish believers should retreat to the confines of Judaism. Jesus is better than Judaism in every respect. And to illustrate the superiority of Jesus and the New Covenant over Moses and the Old Covenant - the writer now compares the two mountains from which the covenants were handed down. The Old Covenant came from Mount Sinai in the wilderness. The New Covenant came from Mount Zion, or heaven itself.

(Hebrews 12:18 NKJV) For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest,
(Hebrews 12:19 NKJV) and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.
(Hebrews 12:20 NKJV) (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow."
(Hebrews 12:21 NKJV) And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

Mt Sinai / the Law / Terrifying

He is talking about Mt. Sinai. When the children of Israel came to Mt. Sinai, you read the account there in the Old Testament. When they came to Mt. Sinai, the mountain burned with fire. There was this loud blast that sounded like a trumpet blast that grew louder and louder. There were thundering. There were lightning's. There was fire shooting across the ground. The presence of the Lord, so the people were terrified at this awesome sight! They said to Moses, hey, you go up and talk to God! You come down and tell us what God said, and we'll obey it. But we don't want to go near that! We'll die!

12:19. In a rising crescendo of trumpets, the thunderous voice of the Lord spoke to Moses, and the people of Israel were filled with dread. In their fear they cried out to Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die" (Exodus 20:19).

The law is awesome. Like the mount from which it was given, it quakes and shakes and is laden with power and possibility. But no one can keep it. And therein lies the problem, for all the blessings connected to it are impossible to touch or to receive. Or you can go to Mount Zion, the heavenly mountain, the city of the Living God, and enter into the New Covenant.

When God met with the Hebrew people at Mount Sinai the manifestations of His presence were frightful, and scary, and terrifying. God put His holiness on display. Coming to God was an audience with a king, rather than a stroll in the park. Neither man or beast was allowed to touch God's holy mountain, or else they'd be struck dead. The point being that the Old Covenant offered limited access to God's presence, and no assurance of His acceptance. Moses was Israel's mediator, yet even he stood on the outside looking in - Moses trembled before God.

The New Covenant

Yet look at how different the attitude is under the New Covenant, verse 22,

(Hebrews 12:22 NKJV) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

If you've been reading through the year reading with us, we're in the Psalms now, and how perfect and beautiful the timing as we come into our study this week here in Hebrews, the call to be looking and fixing our eyes upon Jesus, as we've been called in the chapter, to keep it in its

context and unity. We may break our chapters for timing reasons as we study, but it's really the whole book is one theme, and then, of course, this chapter is one theme. It's laying aside every weight and snare that entangles us, and the author has given us something simple that we so often just miss, and it's looking onto Jesus. God has given us a call here, to look upon these two mountains. As I mentioned, the Psalms, Psalm 120 through 134, they're called the Psalms of Ascent as they were the Psalms that they would sing and read and meditate on as they would make their journey to the feast, the required feast for all males over the age of 18.

Of course, it would be a family event, and they would go. It was a calling to go, to just go away. It was a calling to look up and to see. It was God saying, "You've gone long enough, and you must continually keep your eyes upon me," and so He put these feasts that speak of beautiful pictures of himself as the lamb being slain in the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit coming, the Feast of Trumpets, the calling to come up here, but it was living in booths, as we can study, and a reminder that we're just sojourners, tent dwellers, tent dwellers, nomads here on earth. We're looking for a city as we've been told, whose builder and maker is God, made in the heavens, and so they were to make the Psalm, sing the Psalm, read the song, meditate on the Psalms of Ascent as they were making their way to Jerusalem.

It was always ascent regardless if you were coming from a higher elevation or not because it was all picturesque and allegorical that, when you came to Jerusalem, you were heading up. You were coming into the presence of the Lord, and so it was always heading up regardless of elevation.

I find the great miracle that's spoken of in Psalm 121:7 and 8, that there's the promise that God will preserve you. We really see a miracle here when you consider the whole thing, that they were going to leave their homes, they were going to leave their livelihoods, they were going to leave their livestock, they were going to leave their possessions. They were just going to walk away and start walking the ascent towards and up to Jerusalem and, yet, the amazing thing is they went, if you would consider today, when we leave, doors are locked, security cameras are set, people are asked to keep an eye on and drive by and the likes. We would surely never just leave the door open and leave our possessions open for anybody to walk in and, yet, in a sense, that's what they're doing as they would make this journey.

[Psalm 121:7-8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. ⁸ The LORD shall preserve you going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

God's promising, "I'm going to preserve it. I'm going to protect it. You just go and keep your eyes on Jerusalem. I'll take care of the home front for you, and it will be here when you come back. It will be intact and in place when you come back." That's just amazing. I believe the Lord would speak that to us today. Look, you make your way to Jerusalem. Keep your eyes fixed on me. Come, hear my word. Worship me. Fellowship among the brethren. Just like all the things that would happen at the feast, we get to do it every week. We'll break bread here in communion shortly and celebrate the sacrifice of the lamb that was slain for the Passover of sin to Passover us in our guilt, and He says, "I'll take care of the home front." You can step away. Cut that weight loose. Don't think that you have to work and grind 24/7. Don't think that everything is upon you.

Yeah, you work hard. That's what you're called to do is work hard, but there's a place that, still, you just have to trust me that I'm going to take care of you and provide for you and your family, but there's a time and a place that God says, "Come away with me. Spend time with me." It's not just once a week. We get to ascend to the Mount Zion daily. We get to break away with the Lord so that He can correct things and set our eyes in the right place. What a beautiful promise that we have here and that He gives us in that Psalm 121. It's so applicable for us as we read this passage, the calling to come up to Mount Zion.

(Hebrews 12:23 NKJV) to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Esau Gave Up – We are Registered / Secured

Verse 23 - of the firstborn - Esau was first born, and gave it up; but here in verse 23, we are called the firstborn, we have this inheritance that cannot be taken away from us not for us to give away.

Verse 23 – registered in heaven – Your name is written in heaven, your registration has been made. In fact your registration is on the palms of His hands, pierced hands, your registration is sealed upon His hands!

[Isaiah 49:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

Verse 23 – made perfect – we have been made perfect through the finished work of the cross, not our works. This all speaks of openness and assurance! Rather than keep us on the outside, the New Covenant registers us as citizens of heaven. We have membership - and with membership comes privilege! In Christ we are “just men made perfect.” Jesus mediates for us. We’re sprinkled in His better blood...

(Hebrews 12:24 NKJV) to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Blood of Abel / Blood of Christ

When Cain killed Abel, God said, “Abel’s blood cries out to me” (see Genesis 4:10). What did Abel’s blood cry? Justice. Judgment. Revenge. Jesus’ blood also cries out—not justice, but mercy; not judgment, but forgiveness; not revenge, but grace. Thus, the blood of Jesus Christ, the New Covenant, makes the birthright and the blessing available to me.

[Genesis 4:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.

Our High Priest - Mediator

Verse 24 - to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant – Here again the reference to Jesus being our Mediator, our High Priest. The author brings this in again to remind the people to look fix their eyes upon their high priest.

Justice Has Been Satisfied

Verse 24, the New Covenant reminds me that justice is satisfied. The justice of the guilt and the sin that was upon me from breaking God’s holy law has been satisfied through the New Covenant of the blood of Jesus Christ and the price that He paid, so the question for all of us as we look at these things is shall I demand justice when justice has already been served? Many times, that’s what bitterness is all about. It’s getting justice and demanding it, and then we can obsess over and over what they’ve done and did to us.

Come to the mountain, both of them. Psalm 121:2 says, “I lift my eyes up to the hill.” Where does my help from? My help comes from the Lord, and there’s a word for us as we make our ascent. [Psalm 121:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? ² My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Remember, and we’ll be there next time we’re together, Hebrews 13:8. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The God of the mountain of Mount Sinai is the same God of the mountain of Golgotha, and there we see holiness and grace perfectly pictured. One of the way bitterness chokes us is it allows us, makes us take our eyes off of Jesus as we’ve been called to looking on to Jesus. Instead, we’re looking on to that thing that happened, and we continually think it over and over, live it again and again, and the obsessive thought, and it just chokes and chokes all the sweetness out of our life.

[Hebrews 13:8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

How Do We Escape Bitterness?

- **Let God's Holy Fire Burn the Root Away – 12:25-29**

(Hebrews 12:25 NKJV) See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,

This is the 6th warning in Hebrews.

The 6 Warnings in the Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

When God spoke from Mount Sinai the ground rumbled. His voice shook the mountain. No one can escape God's voice... That was true then, and even more so, now. God's voice still speaks through the NC, and today no one can escape His overtures of love...nor His holiness!

Hear and Come

The warning I want to give to anyone is to not reject God who speaks to you, is calling you to come and receive His grace for the forgiveness of sin

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

We Have a Speaking God

But for those that have received Him, listen, HEAR, God speaks to you! Amazing, God speaks to us. It is truly the theme of this book. God speaks to His people! And for us, listen so we can hear what the Spirit says to us!

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

Whatever you may be facing today, God speaks.... Speaking expresses a relationship with someone. God speaks to His people.

(Hebrews 12:26 NKJV) whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

(Hebrews 12:27 NKJV) Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Eternal Heaven (City) Can't be Shaken

The Old Covenant began with a shaking, whereas the New Covenant will end with a universal shake-up. Under the Old Covenant one mountain shook, but as the Age Of Grace concludes, the whole universe will be knocked off its foundations! The book of Revelation forecasts cataclysmic,

last days judgments that'll rock our world. Everything man-made will be destroyed. When the smoke clears all that's left standing will be God, His truth, and the souls who have followed Jesus. This is why its foolish to put your trust in anything labeled "made on earth." Put your trust in God!

Eleven millionaires went down with the Titanic. One that survived said he left \$300,000 worth of money, jewelry, and securities in his cabin. Later he said, "At the time, the money seemed a mockery. I picked up three oranges instead." When God rocks this world, man-made values and treasures will seem like a joke!

(Hebrews 12:28 NKJV) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

3 Years Temple will Fall

Little do these Hebrew readers know, but in just 3 years the temple that they were considering going back to, will be destroyed by the roman army. We so often put our trust in things that we thing will always be there, and little do we know how fragile they really were until after they fall.

Our kingdom can't be moved. The kingdom of God, it can't be moved! It can't be shaken! It can't be destroyed! We take hope in that.

(Hebrews 12:29 NKJV) For our God is a consuming fire.

God's Fire (Fear or Warmth)

Live for the oranges - for what will fuel your faith. For faith is all that will survive when the shaking stops. The chapter closes by reminding us, "For our God is a consuming fire." God hasn't changed. He's still holy, and fiery, and unapproachable on our own - but the terms of our relationship with Him have changed! In Christ rather than scorch us, the holy fire that is God, melts us, warms us, even lights our path. In Christ we hold on to a new covenant with God by faith!

Isaiah's - King Uzziah Died

"In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord," wrote Isaiah (6:1). Under the reign of Uzziah—one of the greatest kings in the history of Judah—wealth flowed throughout the Jewish empire, and the borders of the nation were not only protected but expanded. So powerful was he, it was said that his name was on the lips of everyone from Babylon in the north to Egypt in the south. But when did Isaiah see the Lord? In the year Uzziah died.

Isaiah 6:1 (NKJV) ¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Our - King Uzziah Died / God will shake our World

So, too, in each of our lives there are Uzziahs: good things, wonderful things—but things in which we trust and upon which we depend instead of trusting in and depending upon God. And because He loves us and wants the best for us, our Father says, "As good as Uzziah might be, he's not Me. As secure as you might feel because of his weaponry, it's not nearly as secure as you would be if you were looking to and leaning on Me." Because we are so prone to put our trust in things that are not trustworthy, God shakes our world as surely as He shook Mount Sinai in order to knock away anything we are trusting in and living for. Gang, He loves you enough to say, "If year after year I let you trust in that, lean on him, or live for her, you will be a spiritual midget. I don't want that for you. You don't want that either. So, I've got to shake it to remove it, that you might again lean on Me, look to Me, and walk with Me—for then you'll be blessed, strengthened, and ready for eternity."

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord

God Will Burn Away

Serve Him with reverence and godly fear, for our God is indeed a consuming fire who will consume anything which distracts you from your relationship and dependency upon Him. If you are at a place where you're experiencing the fire of God, fear not, for if allowed to burn, the warmth and brightness of His love will, indeed, burn away all that is unfruitful and distracting in your walk with Him.

Both mountains shake. Sinai shakes with condemnation of guilt, and Golgotha shakes the weight of sin, shakes grace and the beauty of it, the outpouring of it.

God, a consuming fire, you know fire can be so frightening when it's not in control in the fireplace, burning home and burning forest. Fire in its right place, it's warming, soothing. It's inviting, the consuming fire of God, so let me burn that away. Let me burn that root of bitterness up before it burned you up. Choke it out before it chokes you out. Don't let the fire of bitterness be out of control. Let the fire of God consume that bitterness to set you free.

Augustine

Saint Augustine declared: "God wants to give us something, but cannot, because our hands are full—there's nowhere for Him to put it."

Chapter 12, laying aside every weight and sin that ensnares us:

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ 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, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Conclusion

Passage: Hebrews 12:14-29

Title: How do We Escape Bitterness? (By Coming to the Mountain – Both of Them)

Summary: We all have our times of bitterness for various dealings in life, and so how do we keep the "root of bitterness" from choking out all the sweetness of a God-Life? The answer is coming to the two Mountains the Lord speaks of in this passage (Mount Sinai, and Mount Calvary). Join us as we discover to choke "out" bitterness, rather than allowing it to choke us out.

How Do We Escape Bitterness?

- Pursue Peace (Run Swiftly After It) – 12:14-17
- Come to the Mountain (Both of Them) – 12:18-24
- Let God's Holy Fire Burn the Root Away – 12:25-29

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews Chapter 13

Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Hebrews 13:1-25

Passage: Hebrews 13:1-6

Title: Christ and His Calling - Love Flows

Summary: We ended chapter 12 with God being a consuming fire, and start chapter 13 with the calling to let love continue. Love, continual love, to brothers/sister (verse 1), to love strangers (verse 2), and to love our spouse (verses 3-6). God wants our love burn, long and hot. God's word is always timely, so today may be a good day to fan some flames.

Hebrews 13:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Outline for Chapter 13

Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct – to Love

- Love Flows - among the Saints – 13:1
- Love Flows - out to Strangers – 13:2
- Love Flows – to those who are Suffering – 13:3
- Love Flows - to one's Spouse – 13:4
- Love's Source (Jesus) – brings Contentment – 13:5-7
- Love's Source (Jesus) - is Unchanging – 13:8-14
- Love's Source (Jesus) – Worships in Our Midst – 13:15-16
- Love's Source Never Runs Dry – 13:17-25

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

May the Lord speak to us today on such a topic as this!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Love Flows - among the Saints – 13:1 **(Hebrews 13:1 NKJV) Let brotherly love continue.**

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Continual

The word for continual means:

- 3306 μένω [meno /men·o/] v. A root word; TDNT 4:574; TDNTA 581; GK 3531; 120 occurrences; AV translates as “abide” 61 times, “remain” 16 times, “dwell” 15 times, “continue” 11 times, “tarry” nine times, “endure” three times, and translated miscellaneously five times. 1 to remain, abide. 1A in reference to place. 1A1 to sojourn, tarry. 1A2 not to depart. 1A2A to continue to be present. 1A2B to be held, kept, continually. 1B in reference to time. 1B1 to continue to be, not to perish, to last, endure. 1B1A of persons, to survive, live. 1C in reference to state or condition. 1C1 to remain as one, not to become another or different. 2 to wait for, await one.

Strong, J. (1995). In Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Philadelphia - Fondness

Verse one, the word used here for love is the word "philadelphia." It's a brotherly love. It's a fond love. And we, as believers, we need to have that for one another. We need to be fond of one another, as brothers and sisters. We need to care what the other's interested in, what the other is involved in, and just be sharing life there.

Communing Together

The Greek word for communion, sharing life and oneness. As we share life with Christ, we're sharing life with one another, because we're all in the same body. And here, the author of this book of Hebrews is encouraging us to continue on in brotherly love, fond love, communion, one with another. And it's a beautiful thing.

Last Days – Love of Many Grow Cold

But it's interesting to me, as Jesus would say, that in the last days, and I fully believe we are in the last days, he said that the love of many would grow cold. And I have to just go, "He has to be, then, talking to believers because we know what the world loves, and we know the love of the world, and we know how different it is from the love of Christ." Only love, is God's Love, for God is Love (1 John 4:8)

Matthew 24:12 (NKJV) ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Could That be Me – You?

And, so, the application is, what I see is, to us, believers, that in the last days, the love in the believers could be growing, and will grow, cold. And what a warning to us. What a warning to me, as I consider these things, "Lord, I hear your words. Surely that could never happen to me." But the fact that Jesus said that it will happen in the last days, then I need to examine myself and say then I need to guard against this, to make sure that my love doesn't grow cold and that I have this love, one for another.

Power Prayer in Bonding Love

And I think it's very, then, vital for us to be involved, as we said, this brotherly love, this fondness of one another, of what's going on in your life, what's going on in this other person's life, and being involved in it, and caring, and sharing, coming alongside. And I think one of the greatest places that love grows cold is in the absence of the prayer room, whether it's our prayer life personally, as we pray one for another. As I say, it's impossible to pray for someone, truly, before the Lord, and not have your heart moved towards them and, if necessary, changed, about them and how you view them. But the love of many will surely grow cold in prayerlessness because

that's coldness, that we don't share that avenue that's been given to us. And again, that's in our personal private prayer life, but then also in the beauty. You want to talk about a fire that was stoked? Go back to Acts. "And when the Holy Spirit fell, they were with one accord," and it was tongues of fire. That place, that prayer, those 120, they were on fire for the works of Christ and for the love of each other, as they were one. And, so, the author here in Hebrews gives us that calling, to let brotherly love continue. And I invite you to join us at the prayer room on Tuesday.

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Remind You Chapter 12 - Bitterness

Verse one reminds you, as we were working our way through finishing chapter 12, just that whole study on bitterness. And, so, there's a transition here, no doubt, that "Let brotherly love continue." And it's a calling, especially if there's bitterness between you and a brother or you and a sister, of that bitterness has to be let go, because it will surely quench the brotherly love and the fondness and the intimacy of the communion with each other.

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Verse one, I wonder, "Let brotherly love continue." I still wonder how many relationships are still severed or greatly strained over masks and no mask, vaccine and no vaccine, open or close, submit or not, and all these things? What a blow. And yet, Jesus said, "In the last days, the love of many would grow cold," and he can only be talking about the believers.

Love Flows - out to Strangers – 13:2

(Hebrews 13:2 NKJV) Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

We Love Strangers – Not just Brothers / Doors of Opportunity

Love shows itself to strangers, not just to brothers and sisters. The application here isn't minister and bless strangers because you never know they may actually be angels; rather the application is we should be loving everyone God puts in our path (See Matt 5:43), not just our brothers; because blessings will come from extending our love to others, you might even minister to an angel from heaven, and you would never had the opportunity if you only ministered to brothers you know and love. You never know what doors of opportunity God will open before you if you reach out to a stranger. You may lead them to Christ, you may meet them at an hour of their greatest need. But mostly, you will be doing it as if you were loving on Jesus Himself (see Matt 25:44).

Jesus showed the way for us in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 5:43-47 (NKJV) ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Matthew 25:31-46 (NKJV) ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?' ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' ⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you

did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Angels Something Unique / Hitchhikers

Important, remember when the angels approached Abraham as he sat in front of his tent, he realized there was something supernatural about them (Genesis 18:2). There are those who take this verse to mean they should pick up every hitchhiker they see in the event he might be an angel. But such is probably not the case, sad to say you must balance this with wisdom, don't ever (especially ladies) put yourself in a dangerous position by ministering to a stranger – we do live in a fallen world. As I read the Word, I am aware that when angels do appear, there's a sense within the hearts of those showing hospitality that they are entertaining someone unique.

Genesis 18:2 (NKJV)² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

My Angel Experience

I think I seen an angel. I was out in California, it was a Saturday night and we were on our way home from street witnessing and we stopped at In & Out Burger (umm good stuff). So it is about midnight and it is pretty quiet on the streets, and I saw a homeless man standing along the curb. So I walked over to him and asked if I could buy him something to eat. He said no thanks, so I asked him how he found himself here, and he told me his story. After talking I said may I pray for you, he said please do. So I prayed, and then he said let me pray for you. Now here is the amazing thing, I never told him anything about myself, but that very morning I was asking the Lord, what is it that you want for me, where is that you want me to go after Bible College. When this man prayed, he prayed for every one of those points specifically. As he prayed I knew God had heard my prayers that morning, I was totally encouraged, I was blessed, I was refreshed, because I entertained, I loved a stranger.

Treating Each Other as Angelic

Verse two. Strangers. I think there's a little wordplay that we can take away from this too, as we talk about let brotherly love continue, as we can talk about the fondness one to another, as we can talk about not letting bitterness get in and choke things out. There's just a beautiful place if we really want to tie our hearts together. It's treating others as angels. We joke about it, "She's so angelic." "I'm married to an angel." "Isn't he an angel?" And all those things. But I think, just imagine if that's how we put it into our minds, as we looked at other people, just treating them as angelic? And we're actually told that we're higher than the angels. That's who the believers are. It would literally, if we treated each other like angels and angelic, it should be a demotion. But the wordplay fits so well, and we should treat them for the value and worth that they are, bought with the blood, purchased on Calvary's Cross, 2000 years ago, and a God who counted it worth to redeem them, just as well as he counted it worth it to redeem you and myself.

Love Flows – to those who are Suffering – 13:3

(Hebrews 13:3 NKJV) Remember the prisoners as if chained with them; those who are mistreated; since you yourselves are in the body also.

Again – Back to 2nd Point

Again, remember our first point of loving all God puts in our path, whether brother or sister, or stranger. Jesus showed the way for us in the Sermon on the Mount:

*Matthew 5:43–47 (NKJV)⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?*

Matthew 25:31–46 (NKJV)³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.³⁴

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' ⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴ "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Martyrs / Our Blessings here in America

Love cares about suffering. Love not only flows among the saints and shows itself to strangers but also cares about those in bonds, and those hurting physically. We are one big family, one body, we must remember to pray and support our fellow brethren who are suffering for their faith and witness to Christ. Tens of thousands of Christians are killed in Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, and other Muslim nations. We must pray for them, but also as we remember them, it should cause praise and thanksgiving from within for living in such a great nation as we do, where we can meet and worship and study our Lord without fear of persecution.

A great book I recommend (docudrama to watch) is "The Insanity of God". And the author goes to an underground church in China, where people have to meet in secret else be imprisoned or worse. They ask him about the state of the church elsewhere in the world, and they break out in praise when they here of the move of God around the world, and are happy for places that can worship freely. But a holy hush falls upon the many that were there when he tells the story of what's happening to the church in Somalia he tells the story some brothers who were murdered for their faith. He says he goes to sleep after a long night and then he is awakened by his interpreter he says you must come and see this when he comes out and all those people had not yet gone to sleep themselves they just entered into at time of prayer intercession and he says though I couldn't understand language I could keep hearing one word that I could it was the word Somalia and he finds out through his interpreter for the last four hours well he had been sleeping they had been praying crying out to God from the Christians in Somalia. Pretty amazing considering that they were an underground church facing the same persecution as the church in Somali

Next time you, I, we complain about – ohh I have to go to church, I'm so tired, remember your brothers and sisters in chains, remember you brother and sisters who are over in Iraq and Afghanistan fighting for us, wishing they could be at church with their family. It will really put in perspective how blessed we are.

Not all Prisoners are Behind Bars

May I also remind us of this, that not all prisoners are behind bars. There are those who are shut-in, those who are in prison to fears, depression, and loneliness. May we remember that love cares about the those who are suffering.

How Am I doing on These 3?

In verse three, the prisoners, they are brothers, they are sisters. And here, the calling is for us to "Bear one another's burden."

1. Takes us back to verse one, let brotherly love continue and the fondness and the intimacy.
2. Verse two, strangers, treating them as angelic.
3. And now, three, bearing one another's burdens.

All three of these verses are intertwined. And they're beautiful when we just sit down and ponder them, one-on-one, individually, and say, "Well, how am I doing with this, Lord? And how am I doing?" And then you fill in the blank with that person. You know who I'm talking about. Yeah.

You know. That person. "How am I doing with that person? How am I doing with that brother, that sister, that spouse?" Yeah. You know the person.

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV) ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

James 2:8 (NKJV) ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;

Love Flows - to one's Spouse – 13:4

(Hebrews 13:4 NKJV) Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Precious

The word honorable here means, "precious". Beloved, marriage is precious. The world, the devil, has put it under attack. The devil wants to destroy it, because it represents the heart of God and the gift of God to His creation.

Definition of Marriage

God's design for marriage, is one man to one woman. Anything else is the second part of this verse, and it is what it says it is.....

Matthew 19:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Don't Think Strange

If you find your marriage is under attack, don't think it strange, the devil is in your kitchen (haha), and he is stirring the pot:

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NKJV) ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Fight for It

If your marriage is under fire, Beloved, fight for it..... God's Honor and Glory is at stake. Die to yourself, and live for Christ and His Glory! We ended chapter 12 with call to serve acceptably, and that He is a consuming fire!

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NKJV) ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

The Flower Garden – Where Love Blooms / Cleave - Glue

Now, Love clings to one's spouse. The marriage bed is like a flower garden, it is where love grows, and love blossoms. Go back to Genesis one, and we see God's purpose:

(Genesis 2:24 KJV) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

That word for cleave meant to glue together, a permanent bond. The two shall become one, but first they have to leave mother and father, and cleave together. It is important to understand this Christian, the sexual part brings unity. Your marriage needs the intimacy part, for the intimacy part brings unity. If you are growing apart, it could be because you haven't tended to this area of your life. Turn off the TV, put the kids to bed early. Let me be frank, we live in such a fast paced cram it all in life, that it isn't that the couple have lost their sexual drive, or grown bored, but are just too tired to enter intimacy. Every married couple needs to guard against that, get rest, and/or get away, for your marriage needs this for unity.

Marriage is a Gift

Proverbs 5:19, marriage is a gift. 1 Corinthians 7, nearly the whole chapter, marriage is a gift. It's what he designed it to be back in the garden. It's not good for man to be alone. And here, this conduct of love, all that we've studied through this book and the high lights of it and the high heights of it yet, he gives these simple, pointed, bulletized callings for us as brothers and sisters, verses 1 and 3, husband and wives, verse 4. And then we'll see sons and daughters verse 4-6.

Proverbs 5:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.*

Genesis 2:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* ²⁵ *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

Good Application – As a Man Thinks

Then there's a place here for just some good application. Proverbs Chapter 23 says, "For as a man thinks, therefore he is." And I just put that out there for every marriage, every husband and wife. As you think of your wife, that's who she'll be. As you think of your husband, that's who he will be. And if you think of them in a negative way or degrading way, or just not the way as angelic back to that point that we've just made, then that's who they'll be. But if you elevate them, if you lift them up, if you give them thanks, give thanks to the Lord for who they are and give praise and then treat them as such, they'll become that in your heart and your mind.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.*

For as a man thinks, therefore he is. And I think it's so easy for us to go so fast that we can forget to have deep prayer for our very own spouse and children, for that matter. But here you want pure firepower for your marriage today, pray deeply, intimately every day for your spouse. Pray Proverbs 5:19, pray 1 Corinthians 7, and watch what the Lord will do with that.

Remember, your spouse is a tri-fold being themselves, body, spirit, and soul. And so your prayer and your thought need to be along those three lines, also.

Robs the Soul

Now, part two is important; fornicators and adulterers God will judge. Why, God hates sin, because what sin does to His children and in the case of fornication it robs the soul. The Book of Proverbs makes it plain that if you give yourself outside of marriage, you will experience a destruction of your soul due to the fact that when two people come together physically, it is not only the melding of two bodies, but of two souls (Proverbs 6:32).

(Proverbs 6:32 NKJV) *Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.*

And for you who aren't married, there's a lie in the world that God doesn't care, look directly, because it's such a sex-saturated culture. But the Proverb literally says, "Giving themselves away." And I would say this applies whether it's physically or in the mind, it's still a giving them away and it's a tearing away. It's like peeling an onion as you give yourself away. Yes, God will forgive you, but you will be robbed, you rob yourself when you give yourself away. Reaping and sowing, yes, it's a curse as we can see. But at the same time, reaping and sowing comes with the blessing. You reap what you sow. And if you sow in this perfection and purity and God's way, and being busy about his way, then there's a harvest that comes in your marriage. There's a harvest that comes in your lives when you do that. And so a call here for love and to continue in love and to keep and protect the marriage bed as it is under so much attack here in this world today. And I pray that you will guard it with all your heart, mind, and soul.

Marriage Robbed

Every time you give yourself away physically, you are also giving a piece of your soul away. The more you give, the less you are, and when that day comes and you meet that person you want to spend the rest of your life with, your body may be there, but you have less of your soul to give to that person, and your relationship will never be all that God intended it to be. We reap what we sow. Don't listen to the lie of this world and Hollywood, you will be robbed. Why do you think those people in Hollywood go from relationship to relationship, because there is no substance in their relationships with each other because they have given themselves away so many times they are just shells of people. They turn to alcohol and drugs because they are empty.

Don't fall for the lie, well we are married in God's eyes. No you're not, period, and you know it.

God Will Judge

Verse four, the word there is "porneio" in the Greek, and it's what it means, pornography. And God will judge. He tells us, "For whom the Lord loves, he judges." And I thank God that he loves us enough. He loves your spouse enough. He loves your future spouse enough, that he would judge.

Hebrews 12:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

It's become so common. It seems acceptable. And it doesn't have to be, all the way to ... down to foulness. It comes in many forms. And yet, the Lord is clear. It will defile your marriage, whether you put your hands on it and click on it, or just run it through your mind. God wants to set you free, but he sends a clear message. It's got to be dealt with, because it will defile and make vile, what's supposed to be meant to be holy and pure.

And for all clarity, God is clear about those who live in unrepentant habitual life of sin.... They shall not inherit the kingdom of God:

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Cut it off if that is where you are at today, honor God and He will honor you.

Matthew 5:27–30 (NKJV) ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

The law of sowing and reaping comes across as both a curse and a blessing. Beloved, sow seeds of righteousness and purity into your dating/married life, and God will bloom the seeds you plant into a beautiful garden of love in your marriage relationship:

Galatians 6:7–9 (NKJV) ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

And..... the world overlooks it now, and makes it so common, but one of the major consequences of fornication is abortion. The estimated number of abortions in America, 85% of them are out of wedlock. May God speak to anyone with child today, who is considering an abortion, that child is a gift from God, just as you are, and if you are unable to raise the child, may you hear the Lord speak to you to not sacrifice the life of the child, but that God will honor you if you make sacrifice of yourself and bring this child to delivery and place them in a loving home through adoption. If you need help, call us, write us, and we will help you. You will not go this alone, we will go it with you.

Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct – to Love

- Love Flows - among the Saints – 13:1
- Love Flows - out to Strangers – 13:2
- Love Flows – to those who are Suffering – 13:3
- Love Flows - to one's Spouse – 13:4
- Love's Source (Jesus) – brings Contentment – 13:5-7
- Love's Source (Jesus) - is Unchanging – 13:8-14
- Love's Source (Jesus) – Worships in Our Midst – 13:15-16

- Love's Source Never Runs Dry – 13:17-25

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

May the Lord speak to us today on such a topic as this!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 13:5-16

Title: Never, No Never – Leave Us nor Forsake Us

Summary: The Lord lays before us in our study the “power promise” to never leave us nor forsake us. As we study, we will see that produces courage and confidence in all that is before us and will come to us in this life. However, we must remember, “Never, No Never”! Join us as we remember and are reminded by the Lord this “power promise”, and find strength for the day.

Hebrews 13:1–16 (NKJV) ¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” ⁷ Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Outline for Chapter 13

Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct – to Love

- Love Flows - among the Saints – 13:1
- Love Flows - out to Strangers – 13:2
- Love Flows – to those who are Suffering – 13:3
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- Love’s Source (Jesus) – brings Contentment – 13:5-7
- Love’s Source (Jesus) - is Unchanging – 13:8-14
- Love’s Source (Jesus) – Worships in Our Midst – 13:15-16
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In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Love Source (Jesus) - Brings Contentment – 13:5-7

(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Verse 5a - Let your conduct be without covetousness, be content with such things as you have.....

Don't be Fond of Silver

The word "conversation" today is limited in its meaning to converse between two or more persons. In 1611 A.D., when the Authorized Version was translated, it meant what the Greek word means, "manner of life, behavior." The words "without covetousness" are the translation of *aphilarguros* (ἀφιλαργυρος), made up of *phileo* (φιλεω) "to be fond of," *arguros* (ἀργυρος) "silver," and Alpha prefixed, the total word meaning "without fondness for silver." The exhortation is against covetousness in the form of love of money.

- Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Vol. 10, p. 233). Eerdmans.

My Will is Do Work of Father

Jesus was in perfect contentment, because He was in perfect fellowship with the Father.

John 8:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.*"

Borrowed – Yet Rich

Born in a borrowed cradle, Jesus preached from a borrowed boat, rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey, ate His Last Supper in a borrowed room, and was buried in a borrowed grave. He who made everything laid it all down and entered into total poverty that I might be rich. And He found perfect contentment in that.

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John 8:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.*"

Contentment / Jesus Always There

Love Source (Jesus) brings contentment and satisfaction. We can be content because of the promise in verse 5 that Jesus will never leave us. You see, the degree to which I realize the Lord is with me, the degree to which I enjoy His fellowship intimately is the degree to which I will be content continually.

Psalms 37:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalms 1:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

3rd World Praying for America

A missionary tells the story of how he was in a 3rd world country and he said I want you to know the churches in America are praying for you. The people said that is great, but it is we that are praying for you. We have nothing here but Jesus Christ, in America you have all your abundance and we pray that it doesn't distract you from your relationship with Jesus.

Newly Married / Russia

When you're newly married—living on beans and decorating with bookshelves made of bricks and boards—you have very little materially. But you don't even notice it because you're in love,

and love brings true contentment and satisfaction. So, too, if I'm in love with the Lord, I will not covet. I will be content with whatever I have simply because He is with me.

When I was in Russia in 1993, the walls had just come down, and for the first time people were hearing the truth, there is a God, Jesus Christ, and He loves you, and wants a personal relationship with you. Truth, I could get on a bus, and pick a stranger out of a crowd, and go up to him and say you know Jesus don't you. And their smile would get even bigger, and say yes, are you my brother. In land that was hopeless, their faces shone like a light beacon, because all around them were faces of depression, hopelessness, another day in the drudge of life; but for those few, those believers, they knew they had it all. They had contentment like I've never seen.

Extreme Makeovers / Missed Contentment

Extreme make-overs will just leave you longing for something else. A new job with more money and prestige will just leave you wanting more, faster cars, bigger houses.....the bottom line is that if you are not content in this world, if you are always looking and wanting more, then I suggest to you that maybe you have missed where true peace and contentment comes from, - knowing and loving on Him

Encourages through the Word

And the Spirit gives us power verses to remind us what we may forget, as the world flashes all its comforts and ease, we are given power verses to counter the flesh and the desire and the drawing away from the Lord.

Verse 5bFor He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Here quoting Old Testament:

The Word spoken to Jacob:

Genesis 28:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

The word spoken to Joshua through Moses:

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

The Word spoken to Joshua by the Lord:

Joshua 1:1-9 (NKJV) ¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

5x Negative

I will never leave you nor forsake you: "You that are familiar with the Greek text know that there are five negatives here. We cannot manage five negatives in English, but the Greeks find them not too large a handful. Here the negatives have a fivefold force. It is as though it said, 'I will not, not leave thee; I will never, no never, forsake thee.' " (Spurgeon)

(Hebrews 13:6 NKJV) So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Verse 6 - Quoting Psalm 118,

The author is quoting Psalm 118 directly, and Psalm 27 indirectly:

[Psalm 118:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

[Psalm 27:1 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

Resultant of His Presence – Is Courage

The result of the Lord's abiding presence in the midst of His people is courage. Knowing that He is with them, they are filled with confidence and boldness. They echo the words of Psalm 118:6 which is quoted here

(Hebrews 13:7 NKJV) Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Consider the Outcome

For many such as the apostles at the time of this writing they lived it kind of it worthy to pour it all out for Love's sake to bring glory to the father and bring glorification to the church. So the apostles and others (Hebrews 11: Hall of Faith) who chose the world to come over the world now.

Paul Lived to Say It – Follow Me

The Apostle Paul lived it boldly and confidently that he had no worry to say to all, follow me as I follow Christ! Dads, can you say that to your sons, and moms can you say that to your daughters?

[1 Corinthians 11:1 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

Love's Source (Jesus) - is Unchanging – 13:8-14

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

OT Passage

[Malachi 3:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

World – Culture – Will Change

The world, and the culture, and the opinions of man will change..... but Jesus never will. Therefore don't be looking at them, else you be moved, but look at Jesus an unmovable, because He unchangeable.

Jesus is the ultimate example of never-failing faith. His ways are innovative and timely, but His truth and passion and motives remain timeless. His methods are adaptable, but the character of Jesus is immutable.

Jesus is the Source of all Love / Miss Source and You will be Lead Away

Love's source is Jesus. The fact that love flows among the saints and shows itself to strangers; that it cares about suffering and cleaves to one's spouse; that it brings satisfaction and is seen in submission is all based upon the singular reason that Jesus is the source and that He'll never change. If we miss the source, then we are open to lead astray by every wind that blows through our lives.

Verse 9 they Missed the Temple / 10 Chapters a Superior Way

But verse 9 we see that some of the readers were saying we miss the temple, we miss taking a lamb to the altar, we miss the smell of the incense, the blowing of the trumpets and the swishing of the robes. I could see it, I could feel. But the author has told them and us for ten chapters that there is a better way, a superior way, a perfect way, it is through the source of all love, through the grace of the Lamb of God – Jesus Christ.

I Am Glad He is Unchanging

- I'm glad He never changes because He said that He's coming and He's gonna draw us to himself and is going to descend with the shout the voice of the Archangel trumpet of God that never changes that's still in place
- I'm glad that He says my sins my iniquities He'll remember no more and that He doesn't change because I remember them sometimes for both of us
- but He never changes very important when there's a storm in our life He's the same He can rebuke the wind and the sea
- after the failing, like woman in adultery, He said go and sin no more, He can still forgive
- He can still heal
- and most of all He still saves same way He did then He does it now the gospel is the same now as it was 2000 years ago it still has the same impact on human lives to change them and transfer them and secure their future to wash away their sins and set them free and give them new life and a future and a hope Jesus Christ the same yesterday today and forever.
- Amen!

(Hebrews 13:9 NKJV) Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Verse 9 - Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.....

Truth is Not a Moving Target

Jesus is the ultimate example of never-failing faith. His ways are innovative and timely, but His truth and passion and motives remain timeless. His methods are adaptable, but the character of Jesus is immutable. And that's why we're told in verse 9, "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines." Truth is not a moving target. Sound doctrine is the same doctrine taught by Jesus, reiterated by Paul, and recorded in Scripture. Here's a useful adage about doctrine, "If it's true it's not new. If it's new it's not true!"

I am thankful we don't have to follow winds of strange doctrine, but come to a Word that never changes, but is always alive and fresh and new to us, while never changing

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Verse 9 - For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them..

The Menu for Pleasing God is - Grace

Judaism highlighted dietary or kosher laws... Eat right and you'll go to heaven. The truth is, eat right or you might go to heaven faster - but Jesus taught us righteousness isn't a matter of what we put in our stomach - it's what God puts in our heart. These Hebrew believers came out of this sort of bondage. The writer warns them not to go back. The menu for pleasing God and going to heaven is "grace."

But – There is an Altar for Us

But we do have an altar, a superior altar, maintains the author. "It's just outside the camp"...

(Hebrews 13:10 NKJV) We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

They Worried Would Not be Accepted

Again, these Jewish believers in Jesus had been banned from the Temple, and could no longer offer an animal sacrifice. They worried if they would be accepted by God. But the people who

should've been worried were those within the Temple coming to the altar. Bulls and goats were inferior sacrifices to the sacrifice of Jesus. Better to eat the Bread of Life, at the altar of faith.

John 6:48–58 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world. ⁵² The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" ⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

(Hebrews 13:11 NKJV) For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

(Hebrews 13:12 NKJV) Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Ultimate End of Sin – Outside the Camp

Study the OT sacrifices and you discover they speak clearly of Jesus... and here's a prophetic detail that foretold the end of Judaism... After the animals were sacrificed their carcasses were taken outside the camp of Israel and burned. This meant the ultimate end of sin would occur outside Jewish boundaries. Thus, in God's amazing providence, Jesus was crucified north of Jerusalem, outside the city's walls, at a place called, "Golgotha."

Leviticus 14, 16, and Exodus 29 are three Old Testament passages that speak of sacrifices on the Day of Atonement for the cleansing of leprosy and for the consecration of the priesthood that were offered outside the city.

Jesus Crucified Outside / Left the Outward Show

Jesus was not crucified in the temple, on the altar, but on a cross outside the city walls. The author is saying, look Jesus left the city, the temple, away from the traditions and rituals. He left all the things people are drawn to, man's outward attempts to show spirituality, for that is what the temple had become, just an outward show. It had become a den of thieves:

(Mark 11:15 NKJV) So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

(Mark 11:16 NKJV) And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple.

(Mark 11:17 NKJV) Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

Not Performance-Based/ Christianity is Faith-Based, Grace-Based

Jesus died outside the priestly jurisdiction of Judaism, thus believers in Jesus are no longer bound by Jewish laws and sacrifices and rituals. We no longer relate to God through performance-based religion. Christianity is faith-based and grace-based.

And if you're to live by faith you can't be entangled in a legalistic culture. To live by faith and grace you have to leave the camp. Freedom is outside the walls! These Hebrew believers needed to abandon their old religion.

(Hebrews 13:13 NKJV) Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

(Hebrews 13:14 NKJV) For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

Let Us Leave the City / It is Finished / Celebrate That

The word for us is to leave all the rituals, traditions, incense and candles, icons and pictures, and come outside those things unto Jesus, to live in the Spirit, to walk by faith, not by sight. To look and live in the Spirit. Jesus is radical, and so should we be, we need to leave the city and walk in the Spirit.

On the Cross, Jesus didn't say, "To be continued." He said, "It is finished." Sacrifices, self-effort, works of the flesh, or anything else that diminishes this is a strange doctrine. Celebrate that, enjoy it

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Tents & Content

We have no city here, let us be like Abraham and pitch tents and build altars, looking for a city whose builder and maker is God.

Again mind you many of these people once they came to receive Jesus as Lord and savior they lost their homes they lost their businesses they lost their families they lost their friends of course they lost their right to the temple in many ways they were ostracized treated as lepers and here the author through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is continually encouraging them this world is not yeah don't be drawn back leave what you have to get what is perishing because the Lord says he'll never leave you nor forsake you and although you may feel alone and rejected and reproached you're anything but that you are loved and kept in the hand of God.

And maybe that's how you feel today so this word isn't just written to believers 2000 years ago it's written to you this morning, inspired by the Holy Spirit who's drawing you to hear His heartbeat to know you're loved and you're cherished in the midst of whatever you may currently be facing.

Love's Source (Jesus) – Worships in Our Midst – 13:15-16

(Hebrews 13:15 NKJV) Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Jesus (God is Love) Worships in Our Midst

Jesus (God is Love) Worships in Our Midst

Hebrews 2:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

And

In His presence is fullness of joy; in His presence is where we will find full contentment.

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Start with Praise / Perspective / Same Forever / he Loves You

Want to bless your day, change your day, then start your day with praise and thanksgiving, and then continue it throughout your day. Before I get into my supplications of prayer, my requests and needs from the Lord; I first start with praise and adoration. I give Him thanks for all that He has done for me. Guess what, it puts my needs in perspective, it puts my troubles and worries in the proper light. For I see that it is the Majesty on High I am talking with. I see all the things He has done for me in the past is a demonstration of what He will do for me today and tomorrow. For Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the Source of all love, and He loves me so much, He loves you so much, He can't stop thinking about you, and He was thinking of you, He was thinking of me when he went outside the city gate, to set us free, to say "It is Done".

I Don't feel Like Praising Him

You are free, do you realize that? The stone has been rolled away so that we may walk out of the grave and live. "I don't feel like praising the Lord," some say, "because the traffic bugs me," or, "because the dishes are getting to me." Gang, those are the best times to praise Him—for then it's a sacrifice of praise as you worship the Lord in spite of your own fleshly inclinations.

Distant From God / Scriptures speak on Seasons

Have you asked yourself, “I don’t know what’s wrong. For several days I haven’t felt close to the Lord.” “Does that freak you out?” Christian understand that the Scriptures have much to say about ministering in season and out of season.”

Psalm 16:7–11 (NKJV) ⁷ I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. ¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Seasons / Feelings Fickle

You see, in my Christian walk, I find myself going through seasons.

- There’s springtime—when, with new understandings and fresh growth, I sense the Lord’s presence in my heart.
- Springtime leads to summertime—those warm, wonderful days when the new growth bears fruit from which people glean.
- Summertime leads to fall—when the winds blow and shake the leaves off my tree.
- Fall leads to winter—when the fall winds give way to a cold, wintry, silence.

I used to be cold in my wintertime. Then I learned that if I am going to be a man who walks by faith and not by sight, I must not constantly monitor my feelings because feelings are fickle. The Lord allows you and me to go through regular seasons of wintertime, asking us, “Are you going to walk by the state of your emotions—or by the promises of My Word?”

Allows me to Minister the Gospel

This has allowed me the privilege of being a minister of the gospel regardless of any tragedy or heartache in my own life. Truly, if I hadn’t learned the lessons of the winter season, I wouldn’t be where I am right now. But the good news is this: Winter doesn’t last forever. It gives way to spring.

During worship, some are elated, caught up in an overwhelming sense of the Lord’s presence. And that’s good. Others say, “I’m here. But I don’t feel anything. However, I’m still going to lift my hands and my voice in a sacrifice of praise to the One who has done so much for me in the past, to the One whose touch I know I will feel again in the future.” And that, in some ways, is even better.

(Hebrews 13:16 NKJV) But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Back to Last Week’s Study

Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct – to Love

- Love Flows - among the Saints – 13:1
- Love Flows - out to Strangers – 13:2
- Love Flows – to those who are Suffering – 13:3
- Love Flows - to one’s Spouse – 13:4

Matthew 25:31–46 (NKJV) ³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ ⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵ Then He will

*answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*⁴⁶ *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Here are Some Sacrifices

Here's a New Covenant sacrifice appropriate to offer "the sacrifice of praise" or thanks! And he mentions two others... "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Good deeds and generous giving are two other ways that NC believers can sacrifice to God. If you want to thank God for His grace and His many blessings; then do good and give to God financially.

Encourage the Brethren / Write that Note

Not only is the expression of our love to the Lord sometimes a sacrifice, but the communication of encouragement can be a sacrifice as well. Have you ever witnessed the miracle of one of your kids thanking another of your kids? Doesn't it just blow your mind? Truly, few things are more delightful. So, too, don't forget to write that note of thanks to your sister in the Lord or to speak that word of encouragement to your brother in the Lord, because thereby our heavenly Father is well pleased.

I can see a clear correlating and connecting, Jesus You will never ever, no never, leave me, no never forsake me; therefore then I must do the same "never-ever, no ever" leave my brother, the strange, the suffering, my spouse, because I want to love like You!

Passage: Hebrews 13:5-16

Title: Never, No Never – Leave Us nor Forsake Us

Summary: The Lord lays before us in our study the "power promise" to never leave us nor forsake us. As we study, we will see that produces courage and confidence in all that is before us and will come to us in this life. However, we must remember, "Never, No Never"! Join us as we remember and are reminded by the Lord this "power promise", and find strength for the day.

Outline for Chapter 13

Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct – to Love

- Love Flows - among the Saints – 13:1
- Love Flows - out to Strangers – 13:2
- Love Flows – to those who are Suffering – 13:3
- Love Flows - to one's Spouse – 13:4
- Love's Source (Jesus) – brings Contentment – 13:5-7
- Love's Source (Jesus) - is Unchanging – 13:8-14
- Love's Source (Jesus) – Worships in Our Midst – 13:15-16
- Love's Source Never Runs Dry – 13:17-25

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

May the Lord speak to us today on such a topic as this!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?

- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Hebrews 13:17-25

Title: There is Power in “The Blood”

Summary: Billy Graham, after all the decades of preaching, was asked, if you could change anything in your past teachings, what would it be: Billy said I would teach more on the blood of Jesus Christ! Billy knew there is power in the blood. Join us today as we study and learn how to apply the power that has been supplied.

Hebrews 13:17–25 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. ¹⁸ Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. ¹⁹ But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ²² And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. ²³ Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. ²⁴ Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. ²⁵ Grace be with you all. Amen.

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

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(Hebrews 13:17 NKJV) Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

(Hebrews 13:18 NKJV) Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.

(Hebrews 13:19 NKJV) But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Give and Account / Spurgeon

There are leaders and mentors, pastors and teachers watching over us. And each must give an account before the Lord concerning their ministry to us. A pastor came to Charles Spurgeon and said I don't understand why your church is 3,000 and mine is so small. Spurgeon said well how many do you have, the man replied 30, and Spurgeon said I think that is enough to give an account for before the Lord when you appear before Him, don't you. Leadership comes with great responsibility, remember your leaders and pray for them.

The Word Spoken Parents / You Must Study / You Must Apply

who have spoken the word of God to you, Parents you may ask, “How can I get my kids to respect the authority I have been given over them?” The answer is to base your words with your

kids upon Scripture. Tell them not only what to do, but why—based upon the stories of the Old Testament, the parables of Jesus, the teachings of Paul. If I only tell my kids what to do and never why, they will ultimately rebel against what they will perceive as legalism. But if what I'm saying is based upon and illustrated by the Word, submission is not nearly the problem it would be otherwise.

It's amazing what God will bring to your memory as you're talking with your kids during devotions or over dinner. After all, didn't Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would bring all things to our remembrance? (John 14:26) Nothing, however, can be brought to your remembrance that was never stored in your memory. Read the Word, dear Mom and Dad—and teach it to your kids.

On Fire

I am on fire, sadly hahaha, I am not so-much speaking on-fire spiritually, but my skin is on-fire because I have been swarmed by "chigger mites" while outside. They are pretty much impossible to see with the naked eye (about 1/160 of an inch). You walk by them in the woods and brush against them in the high grass or plant, they catch a ride on your clothing and then work their way to your skin, then "bite". They bite puts a saliva into your skin, and your body does what it is designed to do, and that is fight the invading "not supposed to be here", and then the fun begins. The fun, is a burning and itching, that literally makes your skin feel like it is on-fire. The resultant of these little pokes, burning skin..... besides the insatiable burning, it is nearly impossible to sleep, the fire awakes you regardless of how exhausted you become. You literally have nothing to do all night except think of the pain. I haven't slept in nearly a week, maybe 2 hours a night. Deliriousness sets in, and then everything else is impacted (body – spirit – soul).

As me and my wife discussed, she said how were you the only one out of all the others to get attacked, to which we both said in stereo "warfare". Satan waits, whether it is something physically, or something/someone to stir up a war, whatever it may be, but he waits for his opportunity and he strikes. He loves to strike the shepherds for sure.

[1 Peter 5:8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

This writer was desperate enough to ask for prayer.... No, I see here that he was wise enough, and humble enough, to ask for prayer – the avenue to power! Beloved please pray for those that teach and lead you in the spiritual things, for they are a target continually and therefore continually in need of prayer,

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Hebrews 13:21 NKJV) make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Brezhnev / Funeral

As then Vice President, George Bush represented the U.S. at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev (1982). As written in the Washington Post, Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed: She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest. There in the citadel of secular, theistic power, the wife of the man who had run it

all hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross.

Mrs. Brezhnev, your hope is true, there is life after death, there is life beyond the grave. There is life through the cross, through the Son. For all who will put their trust in Him, and call upon His name as Lord and Savior.

2 Verses / Hebrews / Gospel / 3 Things

The world recognizes Easter once a year, but for those who have put their trust in Jesus, call upon His name, we celebrate Easter everyday. We remember the power of the blood, and the hope of the resurrection. In these two verses today we will do just that, the whole Book of Hebrews is summed up in these two chapters, the whole Gospel is summed up in these two verses, and we will see three things in these two verses:

- Why He Came
- Why He Died
- Why He Rose From the Dead

1.) Why He Came

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Hebrews 13:21 NKJV) make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

God of Peace / Great Shepherd / to Make Complete

The first things we see is why He came; He is the God of Peace, He is the Great Shepherd of the sheep. We are His sheep and the God of Peace and the Great Shepherd wants to make us, Verse 21.....complete (or perfect if you have the KJV).

This is why He came, to make us perfect, to make us complete. To bring us into a perfect standing before Him (a central theme throughout this epistle.)

The Word Perfect / Broken Bone / Mending Net / Ready a Ship / Equip an Army for Battle

This word perfect as it is used throughout the Scriptures and as it was applied in the days of this writing is most wonderful. The phrase translated "make you perfect" is katartizo, a Greek word used in reference to the setting of a broken bone, to the mending of a fishing net, to the readying of a ship for a journey, and to the equipping of an army for battle.

Our Life was Broken / Separated from the Father

To set a broken bone: Our life is broken, for our sin separated from God the Father; but the God of Peace says come unto me, and I will set all things right between us, through the cross, through my Son.

Great Shepherd / Lead Us / Set Things Right

Our Great Shepherd came so He can lead us, show us, help us; He says I can set all things right again, I can set your broken bone:

Sets Relationships / Vocation & Finances / Journey Towards Heaven / Battle the Enemy

Thus,

- it is through the blood that the broken bones of our bodies, our relationships, and our fellowship are set right.
- It is through the blood that the holes are mended in the nets of our vocation and finances. It is through the blood that we journey on toward heaven.
- It is through the blood that we battle against the Enemy until we get to heaven. Physically, relationally, vocationally, spiritually, and eternally we are made perfect not by

studying, counseling, or seminars. We're made perfect by one thing only: the blood of the everlasting covenant.

2.) Why He Died

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

He Came to Establish an Everlasting Covenant

Verse 20 - through the blood of the everlasting covenant - Jesus came to die, He came to establish the new and everlasting covenant (A covenant is an agreement between God and man).

The First Covenant /

God's first Covenant was the Ten Commandments, keep all these rules and you will be right before me – man failed, and we still fail them today. God's standard for coming into His presence, is perfection. If we failed at one point in the Law, then we would be guilty of all of them. God says there are no levels of sin, I look at all as the same. He is a Holy and pure God, and nothing with spot or blemish can come into his presence, if it would, His holiness would have to consume it.

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.

(James 2:10 NKJV) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

(Hebrews 12:29 NKJV) For our God is a consuming fire.

He Knew we Would Fail/ Help Me – Fix This

God knew we would fail them, He knew in and of ourselves we couldn't keep them. They were there to show us of our need, that our failings would make us cry out to Him, HELP ME, please fix this, set this broken bone of my spiritual life – I need help.

Established Sacrificial System / Fresh Start

And so the Lord established the Sacrificial System, that would be a shadow of things to come, it would be a picture of the Cross on Calvary. Before Jesus, man could go to the temple and say I blew it, I messed up, I broke our agreement, I need help to make things right. So God established the Sacrificial System so that man could get a fresh start again, that his failure could be covered.

The Transfer of Guilt/ Hand on the Head / The Lamb took his Place

The person would take an innocent lamb, lay his hand upon the head of the lamb, and confess his sin before God. He was transferring his guilt onto the innocent lamb that would then be sacrificed. The lamb took his place. God would give this picture over and over through the Sacrificial System; man will lay his hands upon an innocent lamb (or offering), confess his guilt, and then sacrifice the animal on the altar.

The New Everlasting Covenant / You Lay Your Hands Upon My Head / Once and For All

But man is sinful, we are blow it every day, and God said I know, the Sacrificial System was just a picture of Me to come. For I will come and bring a New Covenant, which will be Everlasting, and I will be the substitute, you will lay your hand upon my head, you will transfer your guilt and shame unto me, and I will be the One who is sacrificed for your failings, so you can be right before the Heavenly Father, so that you will not be consumed for your sin. But my sacrifice, is so perfect, for I am the Son of God, that it will be once, and for all.

*****All you have to do is lay your hand upon My head and transfer your guilt onto Me, and you will be made whole, the broken relationship, that broken bone will be set.

Not Written with Ink / Son's Blood / Life in the Blood

This is the New and Everlasting Covenant, and it would not be written with ink on paper, but with blood. God wrote the Ten Commandments, the Law with His very finger upon stone tablets, but

for the everlasting covenant, He uses his Son's very blood as the ink that He writes upon our heart:

(Hebrews 10:16 NKJV) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

(Hebrews 10:17 NKJV) then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Why the blood? Because the life is in the blood:

(Leviticus 17:11 KJV) For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

He would Count it Worth It

He would bear the cross, despising the shame, all with me, all with you, on His mind, and consider every drop of His blood worth it, to write this new, everlasting Covenant, for you and me:

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

7 Times

Amazingly, when the animal was sacrificed the Priest would then take the blood and sprinkle it seven times upon the altar. The blood sprinkled seven times speaks as much of completion as it does of the seven places from whence Jesus bled....

- from **His forehead** as He sweat drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane,
- from **His back** due to the scourging.
- from **His brow** due to the crown of thorns,
- from **His face** as His beard was plucked,
- from **His hands** nailed to the Cross,
- from **His feet** nailed to the Cross,
- from **His side** due to the soldier's spear.

Complete Forgiveness / Complete Healing / It is Finished

Seven in the Scriptures represents completeness (7 days in a week, 7 days of Creation, 7 notes in a music scale) Seven times Jesus' blood flowed, providing complete forgiveness for my sin, complete healing, and complete victory over the Enemy....

It is Finished! Jesus would say with His last breath. The final Sacrifice has been made.

Jesus the Great Shepherd

Jesus said, I am the good shepherd! The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep! Jesus used the analogies in which He spoke of the shepherd who had counted ninety-nine into the fold. One was lost! And how He went out and searched until He found the lost one and brought it in. And He said rejoice with me for the lost has been found.

Luke 15:1-7 (NKJV):¹ Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

3.) Why He Rose from the Dead

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead,

Easter / What does Resurrection Mean

Easter, which is remembrance of the Resurrection, remembrance of the God of Peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead. What does the resurrection mean to us, it means the sacrifice was accepted. God accepted the substitute of Jesus for you, for me. If the substitute was not accepted, then Jesus would have stayed in the tomb, and we would have no hope today, no reason to celebrate.

First Day of the Week / Stone Rolled Away / He is Alive

(Matthew 28:1 NKJV) Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

(Matthew 28:2 NKJV) And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.....

(Matthew 28:6 NKJV) "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

The stone was rolled away not so Jesus could get out, but that we might look in, and see that He is Alive, He is Risen.

Rolled Away so We Could Live / Walk out of the Grave / Death Passed Over Us

He rolled away the Stone so we could live, so we could walk out of the grave, that the death sentence upon us would be lifted, and passed over us.

Risen - egeiro, eg-i'-ro; prob. akin to the base of G58 (through the idea of collecting one's faculties); to waken (trans. or intrans.), i.e. rouse (lit. from sleep, from sitting or lying, from disease, from death; or fig. from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence):--awake, lift (up), raise (again, up), rear up, (a-) rise (again, up), stand, take up.

Lazarus – If Only You had Come Sooner

They would say ohh Jesus if only you would have come sooner than my brother Lazarus would not be dead. Jesus said, "Roll Away the Stone", Lazarus come out from there, take off those grave clothes and live:

John 11:39-44 (NKJV) ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

God Rolled Away the Stone / Bone / Nets / Sail / Battle

God rolled away the stone so that He might mend the broken bone, that He might mend the broken nets of your life, that He might set you sail on a life, and that more abundant (John 10:10), that He might prepare you for a battle, that He already won, on the cross at Calvary. His resurrection proves His victory over sin and death.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

I've Been to Israel / We Are Free

I've been to Israel, I've been to the Garden Tomb, and I can tell you that He is not there. There is a sign on the door, it reads, "He is not Here, He is Risen"

We are FREE, it is a celebration today, and every day.

Steven Curtis Chapman

Steven Curtis Chapman sings a most wonderful song, it is a victory song, it is a celebration song, it is call "I'm Free!" Sit and enjoy this song, reflect on the freedom that the Lord has brought us, by us laying our hands upon His head, of transferring our guilt and shame unto Him.

(1 Corinthians 15:55 NIV) "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

(1 Corinthians 15:56 NIV) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

(1 Corinthians 15:57 NIV) But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reading of Psalm 23

This is what our Great Shepherd did for us. David said, the Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want! For He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.

A famous actor was once the guest of honor at a social gathering where he received many requests to recite favorite excerpts from various literary works. An old preacher who happened to

be there asked the actor to recite the twenty- third Psalm. The actor agreed on the condition that the preacher would also recite it.

The actor's recitation was beautifully intoned with great dramatic emphasis for which he received lengthy applause. The preacher's voice was rough and broken from many years of preaching, and his diction was anything but polished. But when he finished there was not a dry eye in the room. When someone asked the actor what made the difference, he replied, "I know the psalm, but he knows the Shepherd."

How about you... Do you know the Shepherd? Can you rest in the promise of the above psalm? Come to Him this morning and give your heart to Him. And He will **restore** your soul.

BUT – DWELL HERE THAT THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Hebrews 13:21 NKJV) make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Peace / Shepherd / Perfection / Blood Covenant / Roll Away the Stone / Sprinkled 7X

In our last study we saw why He came, because He is the God of Peace, that Great shepherd of the sheep who brought us into perfection. He died so that we might live, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. As we take our hand, hand lay it upon His head, and transfer our guilt and shame unto Him. And He rose from the dead, proving the transfer, the substitute, was accepted, so that we might Roll Away the Stone and live, so that we can take off those old grave clothes, and walk in the freedom and joy that He purchased with His very own blood. That blood that would be sprinkled seven times on the altar, that we know as the cross. He would bleed:

- from **His forehead** as He sweat drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane,
- from **His back** due to the scourging.
- from **His brow** due to the crown of thorns,
- from **His face** as His beard was plucked,
- from **His hands** nailed to the Cross,
- from **His feet** nailed to the Cross,
- from **His side** due to the soldier's spear.

Life in the Blood

Why the blood? Because the life is in the blood:

(Leviticus 17:11 KJV) For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Billy Graham was asked, if you could change anything in your past teachings, what would it be: Billy said I would teach more on the blood of Jesus Christ! Billy knows there is power in the blood.

The Word Perfect / Broken Bone / Mending Net / Ready a Ship / Equip an Army for Battle

This word perfect as it is used throughout the Scriptures and as it was applied in the days of this writing is most wonderful. The phrase translated "make you perfect" is katartizo, a Greek word used in reference to the setting of a broken bone, to the mending of a fishing net, to the readying of a ship for a journey, and to the equipping of an army for battle.

Sets Relationships / Vocation & Finances / Journey Towards Heaven / Battle the Enemy

Thus, it is through the blood that the broken bones of our bodies, our relationships, and our fellowship are set right. It is through the blood that the holes are mended in the nets of our vocation and finances. It is through the blood that we journey on toward heaven. It is through the blood that we battle against the Enemy until we get to heaven. Physically, relationally,

vocationally, spiritually, and eternally we are made perfect not by studying, counseling, or seminars. We're made perfect by one thing only: the blood of the everlasting covenant. There is power in the blood!!!!!!!!!!

7X / Complete Victory / But sometimes Not So / 1 Cor 15

Seven times Jesus' blood flowed, providing complete forgiveness for my sin, complete healing of my faults, and complete victory over the Enemy....

But so often we find ourselves living in the defeat of sin and/or depression. We say then how can this be, how can I keep being taken down in sin and failures, what happen to:

(1 Corinthians 15:55 NIV) "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

(1 Corinthians 15:56 NIV) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

(1 Corinthians 15:57 NIV) But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Stone Rolled Away / Graveclothes Still On / The Squatter

The stone has been rolled away, yes, but we still haven't taken off the graveclothes. We keep falling in the same areas, we are still depressed, and our lives are still in chaos.

The reason is that the squatter, Satan, has not been kicked out. Satan is still wreaking havoc in our lives.

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Hebrews 13:21 NKJV) make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

God Says I Want to Work In You

God says I will work in you to do what is pleasing in my sight, and I work in you through my Son Jesus Christ. His blood is now in you, so that you can now call upon the same power that He called upon while He walked this earth.

Blood Supplied / But Must be Applied

The blood has been supplied. The question is, is it being applied? "You say sure, I'd like my family to do well, my home to be blessed," you say. "But how does it happen?" Why do things not always go well, why do I still suffer these defeats and set-backs, why is it the same with my family and friends also, how do I win?

Rev 12 / Cast Out by the Blood / Thy Kingdom Come

In Revelation 12, we see a battle waged in heaven between the archangel Michael and the dragon, or Satan. Michael wins. The dragon is eventually cast out of Heaven. How? By the blood of the Lamb and the word of testimony which says:

(Revelation 12:10 NKJV) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," Jesus prayed (Matthew 6:10).

How do we overcome the dragon, our accuser, the devil? The same way it's done in heaven:

Through the blood of the Lamb. There is power in the blood!!!!!!!!!!

Overcome Enemy against – Children –Marriage – Home / Not Counseling / But Blood

The way to overcome the Enemy against your children, your marriage, and your home, as seen in Revelation 12 and here in Hebrews 13, is not by counseling, not by attending workshops, and not by establishing support groups. The Enemy is overcome by the blood—for nothing else is

powerful enough. The power of the Everlasting Covenant had enough power to raise Jesus from the dead.

Garden Given / Garden Forfeited / Satan Prince of World / Why World Mess

You see, in the Garden of Eden, in giving Adam dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26), God, in effect, handed Adam the title deed to the planet. Adam, in turn, transferred ownership to Satan when he knowingly bought into Satan's lie. That's why Jesus calls Satan the prince of this world (John 12:31). That's why there are wars, famine, and heartache. That's why there is murder, disease, and death. These things are not God's fault. They are the consequence of man's rebellion.

Jesus Purchased World Back / Satan Days Numbered / Exercising Squatter Rights

But God had a plan. "I'm going to buy back the world by sending My Son, the Lamb, to die and pay the price for the sin of Adam and all humanity," He said. So He did. Pinned to the Cross, Jesus' blood was shed as payment for our sin. Truly, the world has been purchased back by the blood of the Son on Calvary. Therefore, Satan's days are numbered, and He will be dealt with in due season. Presently, however, he's exercising squatter's rights in this world—and possibly in your home. He needs to be kicked out.

(Matthew 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

My Shopping Cart

Now suppose while I'm at church, someone moves into my house. Finding this guy sitting in my living room, I dejectedly head to the market, get a shopping cart, and start walking the streets.

"What are you doing?" you would ask me.

"I'm homeless," I would say. "I went to church, and somebody moved into my house. I'm defeated. I'm discouraged."

"Let me get this straight," you'd say. "Someone moved into the house you bought—and you just let him have it?"

"Yeah," I would answer. "I don't know what else to do."

"Do you have a title deed to the house?" you'd ask.

"Yes."

"Well, go get the authorities. Show them the title deed, and move back into your house. It's yours."

Same Spiritually / Satan can't Hold You / his Lies – Depression - Addiction

The same thing happens spiritually. Satan has no authority, no right, no hold on you. All he can do is claim squatter's rights and say, "This depression will never lift. This addiction will never leave. Your daughter's going to blow it. Your son's going to rebel. Divorce is inevitable." And what do we do? We get our shopping carts and wander the streets in despair.

Accuses Our Past

Satan the squatter takes up residence by falsely accusing us in our past. Of our past sin, he accuses us day and night, saying, "You've fallen in this area so many times. You'll never make it." But the way we overcome past sin is by the blood.

"Wait a minute, Satan," we must say, "I may have failed a billion times, but the blood of the Lamb is absolutely inexhaustible. You might accuse me night and day, but the blood of Jesus Christ covers me completely, for where sin abounds grace abounds even more (Romans 5:20).

(Romans 5:20 NKJV) Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

(Romans 5:21 NKJV) so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Accuses Our Present

Concerning our present struggles, Satan cannot grasp, grip, or dominate any area to which the blood has been applied. I can choose to give in if I wish; I can succumb if I want. But in reality, the

Enemy has no authority whatsoever because of the cleansing power of the blood. He will say you can't beat this, it's hopeless. Remember the Blood, it looked so hopeless on that Friday, that day Jesus hung on the cross, but Sunday was a coming, and there is always a Sunday a coming for you, if you claim the power of the blood, go to the throne.

Accuses Our Future

Regarding future salvation, I think of Noah, who, in construction of the ark, provided a place of salvation for his sons and their wives twenty years before his sons were even born. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved—and thy house," declared Paul (Acts 16:31). Am I suggesting salvation is inherited? No, everyone must make his own decision. But, like Noah, I can provide a place in which Satan will not be able to seduce my son or my daughter into walking away from the Lord if I apply the blood to my house.

Apply it 3 Ways

I suggest three ways to for the Blood to be Applied in our lives.

- In Our Home Corporately
- In Our Bodies Individually
- In Communion Practically

In Our Home Corporately

First, the blood is to be applied to our homes corporately.

1st Passover

After being held in bondage for four hundred years, the children of Israel prayed to the Lord and He raised up a deliverer named Moses. "Thus saith the Lord," he announced. "Let My people go." But reluctant to do so, Pharaoh subjected the nation of Egypt to a series of plagues—the last of which was the death of every firstborn son whose house was not marked with blood. How were the houses to be marked? Each household was to kill a lamb, dip the brushlike hyssop plant into the blood and mark the top, sides, and threshold of the door—thereby forming a picture of a cross. Houses so marked were "passed over" by the death angel (Exodus 12:22, 23).

Exodus 12:22–23 (NKJV) ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

Over the Door

Why was the blood applied to the doorway? Because in that culture, the doorway was the most prominent part of the home. Entrances and exits were always made through the front door. Thus, the picture of a Cross was ever before them.

The Blood over the door of you home, your heart, says..... devil this is as far as you can come. The Blood, is the STOP sign of Heaven!

Satan Absent from the Home

So, too, all who enter and leave our homes should be cognizant of a redemptive environment within—a place where the death angel is noticeably absent from the conversation and decor, from what we watch on TV and listen to on the radio.

Will I Pray for My Son

The blood has been supplied. The question is, will I apply it? Will I go into my son's room as he's sleeping, kneel beside his bed, lay my hand upon him, and plead the blood over him? It's powerful. It's potent. And you can do it, Dad and Mom.

Pray for Unsaved

When I pray for my child, that unsaved friend or family, I pray believing that at that very moment that I am praying, that Satan is bound, and that he cannot distract or cause confusion in that

persons mind, because Satan is a defeated foe who is only exercising squatters rights, but that the blood of Jesus will bound him at that moment:

(Matthew 16:19 NKJV) "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Pray for Saved

When I pray for a believer I pray for a moment of peace for them in the midst of their warfare, I pray that the Lord will bring to remembrance the cross and the victory that was won there. I pray that they can see the love their Savior has for them.

Not Mantra – But Understanding Victory

It's not a phrase or a mantra. It's understanding that the victory has already been won, that the price has been paid, that the work of the Cross is complete.

The Blood over the door of you home, your heart, says..... devil this is as far as you can come. The Blood, is the STOP sign of Heaven!

I find tremendous power when I pray prayers "of the Blood of Jesus".

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Exodus 12:22–23 (NKJV) ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

Praying the Blood:

- Lord, I pray the Blood of Jesus over my wife (as I picture the blood going over the door of her heart-mind-soul), that the Devil could not tell her lies today
- Lord, I pray the Blood of Jesus over my son (as I picture the blood going over the door of her heart-mind-soul), that you would not allow any dead thing to come into the home of his heart
- As I drove down the street and I saw ten-year old out girl who should be home playing dress up and tea party, heading the wrong way. Lord, I pray the Blood of Jesus over this young girl (as I picture the blood going over the door of her heart-mind-soul),
- Lord I pray the blood over my friend Timmy, right now Lord, that the devil can't get a foot hold in his mind, draw away to those drugs, alcohol, but Lord you would cover him, his home, that the devil can't get in! Lord I put the blood over the door of his home (his person)

In Our Bodies Individually

Second, the blood is to be applied to our bodies individually.

Not Magical / Direct Link to Throne / Unlimited Access

The blood isn't a magical incantation, but it is the direct link unto the throne of God. It is through the blood of the "everlasting covenant" that we have unlimited, uninterrupted access to the throne of God, and we can plead before our needs and desires, and it is there that He can work in us through Jesus. We can boldly go before the throne, having full confidence that we are accepted, because access has been granted through the Son:

(Ephesians 3:11 NKJV) according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, (Ephesians 3:12 NKJV) in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Power is at Throne / Same Power that Rose Jesus

It is there at the throne that lies the power for living this life here and now. How much power is available at the throne, enough to raise Jesus from the dead:

*(Ephesians 1:19 NKJV) and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
(Ephesians 1:20 NKJV) which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

Ted Williams / DNA / Something in the Blood

Maybe you followed the story last year, Ted Williams the great baseball player had passed away, and his son fought a nasty court battle to have his fathers body cryogenically frozen. The son said he did so that someday his father might be brought back to life. The sister said his plan was that as advancement in cloning progresses, he would then sell his fathers blood, so that the DNA could be used to produce a child for a couple who wanted a child that would grow up to be a great baseball player. Most close to the story say it was for the money that the DNA would bring. As strange as the story is, his son does have one part right. There was something in his father blood, his DNA structure that made him a great baseball player. Something in his DNA that gave him great hand-eye coordination, great speed, and great strength. For each and every one of us, it is our blood, the DNA structure that make us who we are, short or tall, good with math, good at sports.

1drop / This Study – Victorious Christian Life

There is power in the blood of Jesus Christ. So much power that one drop of His divine blood is enough to was away all of our sins, past, present, and future. And in this study we will see that there is something in His blood, that when applied to our lives, gives us the power today, to live victorious Christian lives. That we don't have to wait until heaven to enjoy His victory on the cross.

Because of this link, we have the power to live victorious Christian lives today for the Lord wants to bring us into perfection, to do His will and what is pleasing in His sight. For what is pleasing to Him, is always what is the best for us.

Law of Leper / Ear – Thumb - Toe

In Leviticus 14:10–18, we see the remaining sequence of the law of the leper who was healed of leprosy (it is a picture of us being healed of our sin). That is, on the eighth day, a trespass offering was made in which some of the blood of the lamb slain was applied to the tip of the right ear, right thumb, and right big toe of the one who had been healed of leprosy:

Leviticus 14:10–18 (NKJV) ¹⁰ “And on the eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, and one log of oil. ¹¹ Then the priest who makes him clean shall present the man who is to be made clean, and those things, before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ¹² And the priest shall take one male lamb and offer it as a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them as a wave offering before the LORD. ¹³ Then he shall kill the lamb in the place where he kills the sin offering and the burnt offering, in a holy place; for as the sin offering is the priest's, so is the trespass offering. It is most holy. ¹⁴ The priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. ¹⁵ And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and pour it into the palm of his own left hand. ¹⁶ Then the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD. ¹⁷ And of the rest of the oil in his hand, the priest shall put some on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the blood of the trespass offering. ¹⁸ The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed. So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD.

Hearing – Activities - Direction

In other words, the blood was applied to the man's hearing (ear), to his activity (hand), and to his direction (toe). Oil was then applied to those same three places. “I want power to hear properly, to work effectively, to walk uprightly,” we say. Oil being symbolic of the Spirit, the power of the Spirit can flow only where the blood has first been applied. Thus, there are those who long for the empowering of the Spirit without realizing that they first need the cleansing of the blood.

I find tremendous power when I pray prayers “of the Blood of Jesus”.

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before

our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Exodus 12:22–23 (NKJV) ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

Praying the Blood:

- Lord, I pray the Blood of Jesus over my life today. Everything I touch, what I think, what I hear, where I go, that You would cover me, send the Devil fleeing, protect this house I call my body, so that I not only have victory over the grave, but over sin!

The Blood over the door of you home, your heart, says..... devil this is as far as you can come. The Blood, is the STOP sign of Heaven!

In Communion Practically

Finally, the blood is applied in Communion practically.

Do This in Remembrance of Me

“This is My blood shed for you,” Jesus said. “Do this in remembrance of Me” (see Luke 22:19). We can come, bow the knee, and plead the blood over themselves and their families at the Lord’s table. It’s available. It’s supplied. But will it be applied? That’s the only question.

Plead the blood, precious people—and as you do, realize pleading the blood of the Lamb is not a magical incantation. It’s not “Open Sesame,” or “Abracadabra.” **It’s not a phrase or a mantra. It’s understanding that the victory has already been won, that the price has been paid, that the work of the Cross is complete.**

The Blood over the door of you home, your heart, says..... devil this is as far as you can come. The Blood, is the STOP sign of Heaven!

Put your shopping cart away, saint, and reclaim your house.

(Hebrews 13:22 NKJV) And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

13 chapters and he calls it a few words.

(Hebrews 13:23 NKJV) Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

(Hebrews 13:24 NKJV) Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

(Hebrews 13:25 NKJV) Grace be with you all. Amen.

And here we end with “Grace” – God’s – Riches- at – Christ’s – Expense.

Our High Priest went into the Holy of Holies for us, both as High Priest and the Offering, so that we will be made perfect. So that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal. But Jesus Christ has.

Communion

Hebrews 13:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Song of Solomon 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² While the king *is* at his table, My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.

It was when the maiden sat at the table of her shepherd-king that the fragrance came forth from her.

Beloved, when you feast at the Lord's Table, a fragrance comes forth.

The bride says, "At the king's table, the fragrance of spikenard emanated from me." What is spikenard? It's the same ointment Mary released upon Jesus as she broke the alabaster box. Jesus said, "She has done this as a memorial unto Me. And this shall be spoken of wherever the gospel is preached. Disciples, leave her alone. This is a beautiful act" (Mark 14:3–9).

Mark 14:3–9 (NKJV) ³ And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need