

Hebrews 12 – 14 July 2024

“Fixing Our Lives On Victory”

Introduction

*Chap 11-13 finishes the book of Hebrews with our response to receiving the New Covenant in Jesus

*Chap 11 was the famous Hall of Faith chapter

*This showed ‘If we have true Biblical faith, the result is having a daily life of godly action’

*Chap 12 continues our response to receiving the New Covenant in Jesus w/ ‘How to fix our lives on victory’

*Are you coasting into heaven or...

*Do you have a heart of compassion that loves Jesus & wants to see more people gain eternal life?

*Once our lives are made from a fabric of faith in Jesus, now let’s “Fix Our Lives On Victory”

Today, we’ll see 4 keys to fixing our lives on victory

#1 – Fix our eyes on Jesus (Vs 1-3)

Read Vs 1

1. We have a cheering section, like home-field advantage in a College basketball game
 - a. Even better, our cheering section are all players that went to our college & now in NBA
2. How would we practice ahead of THAT game?
 - a. We'd eat better and practice more
3. If 'laying aside' distraction or sin, it's fully gone
 - a. It's matter of believing we're better w/o it

Read Vs 2-3

1. We're *encouraged* by the cheering section, but we *get our instructions* from the coach
2. Jesus is the perfect coach (Hall of Famer)
 - a. Our coach is seated b/c work is complete
 - b. He's not pacing/nervous, neither should we
3. He's the creator & completer of our salvation
 - a. Read Phil 1:6: Jesus finishes what He starts
4. What was the joy that was set before Him?
 - a. Read Matt 13:44: Winning you to His side!

- b. If He was willing to endure for my sake, I can endure in response to His great love for me
- 5. He warns us to meditate on what Jesus has done lest we start changing our minds & shrink back
 - a. Battlefield is in our mind – belief, endure

#2 – Fix our hearts on sanctification (Vs 4-11)

Read Vs 4

- 1. How hard are we really fighting against sin?
 - a. Is it just mental gymnastics or real change?
- 2. Bring it out of the mind into the real world by talking about our temptations
 - a. ‘Today I was tempted to _____, but I didn’t!’
- 3. Are we willing to resist sin even at a real cost?

Read Vs 5-6

- 1. Constantly meditate & receive God’s Word
 - a. We’re leaky vessels and easily forget
- 2. “Whom He loves, He chastens”
 - a. God’s correcting these Jewish believers thru this letter – to turn away from the Law

- b. Paul wants them to receive this chastening,
b/c it's worse if God *doesn't* bother helping

Read Vs 7-8

1. Experiencing the correction of God is a sign you've been born again & you're in the family
 - a. When you hear the Word of God, do you hear it as if it's *for you*? – You're in the family
 - b. When a Christian corrects you, even if they're wrong on parts...and you're willing to listen – You're in the family
2. Don't be concerned when you're being convicted of sin, be concerned *when you're not*

Read Vs 9-10

1. A good earthly father corrects us w/ what's best *for him*; God corrects us w/ what's best *for us*
 - a. Jesus' correction of us is selfless & loving
 - b. C. Spurgeon "There isn't a drop of God's wrath in it, it's all sent in love"

Read Vs 11

1. Discipline seems to be a bad thing, but we don't live by "seems to", we live by truth
 - a. Sun seems to be bigger at sunset, it's not
 - b. The earth doesn't seem to be round, but it is
2. Takes a little hindsight before we see discipline's value
 - a. Takes faith to accept truth over what *seems to be*

#3 – Fix our hands on helping others (Vs 12-17)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Help each other to go straight and be active
2. Now's the time for action
3. This is the attitude by which we should do
(Read) Heb 3:13
4. Ask someone, 'what ails you?', then help them

Read Vs 14-15

1. We must actively be pursuing peace and godliness, or we will become ineffective and dry
 - a. On a dry lawn that last to die are the weeds
 - b. We see those roots of bitterness clearest in the dry seasons
 - i. Choke them out with pursuing godliness
2. Dry today? (Read Isa 40:31) – wait upon God
 - a. What does it take to “fall from grace”?
 - b. Stop flapping your wings

Read Vs 16-17

1. You're either imperfectly pursuing godliness like Jacob or you're into the flesh like Esau
2. As Esau found out w/ the blessing of his father, there are things that we can't go back and undo
 - a. Had a child out of wedlock? Can't undo
 - b. There are lifelong effects of many decisions
 - c. Pursue godliness to not fall for these traps

#4 – Fix our minds on our unshakable future (Vs 18-29)

Read Vs 18-21

1. Enacting of the covenant of the Law was done at Mt Sinai, which will be compared to the enacting of the covenant of Grace done at Mt Zion
2. Law at Sinai represented by darkness (vs 18)
3. Law at Sinai represented by harsh communication regulations (vs 19-20)
4. Law at Sinai brought fear (vs 21)

Read Vs 22-24

1. Grace given at Zion is spiritual & life (vs 22)
 - a. There's a deep reality to what we now have
2. Grace given at Zion is about relationship (vs 23)
 - a. We come together w/ those love *firstborn*, Jesus
3. Grace given at Zion is settled by innocent blood (vs 24)
 - a. We've come directly into the presence of Jesus by His blood

4. “Speaks better than the blood of Abel”
 - a. The blood of Abel’s death cries for justice.
 - b. Jesus’ blood cries out ‘justice has been satisfied by grace’
5. Not about Abel’s death, but his sacrifice
 - a. Abel’s sacrifice was only a shadow of faith looking forward to the real sacrifice of Jesus

Read Vs 25

1. Don’t ignore those that speak of the covenant of grace b/c those that rejected Moses giving the Law were cast out, it’ll be worse for you
2. There were consequences for rejecting the Law, & even more so for rejecting the Lord’s grace

Read Vs 26

1. If you reject Jesus, in the end, He’ll crush you to powder (from Luke 20:18)
2. There’s more grace in OT than many know of, & more judgement in the NT than many know of

Read Vs 27

1. Things of this earth when shaken will crumble to nothing; things of heaven when shaken will rise
2. I long for the day when all the perversion on TV & internet will crumble into nothing
3. I long for the day when our bodies will crumble to nothing, revealing an eternal, unshakable one

Read Vs 28-29

1. Living a life in reverence to God from gratitude...just...makes...sense
 - a. Read Rom 12:1 KJV – This is reasonable
2. Jesus said in Luk 12:49, I am come to send fire on the earth and what will I if it be already kindled
 - a. John said his baptism was just water, but Jesus would baptize us w/ the H.S. & w/ fire
 - b. Everyone's work shall be revealed by fire (I Cor 3:13)
 - c. Take heart if this world's giving you trouble b/c of what Peter wrote (Read I Pet 1:5-7)

Conclusion

So, let's not just live w/ faith in Christ, but let's fix our lives on victory!

1. Fix our eyes on Jesus

- a. If you've accepted His cross, He's not angry & frustrated with you
- b. He seated at rest & cheering you on

2. Fix our hearts on sanctification

- a. Accept His discipline, it's b/c He loves you
- b. If we meditate on His Word, it will keep us from sin

3. Fix our hands on helping others

- a. Share your temptations, & they'll share
- b. Bring a spirit of meekness

4. Fix our minds on our unshakable future

- a. Can't we pursue great things even at great earthly cost, knowing *nothing* can steal eternity with Jesus from us

Read Phil 3:13-14