

The Supremacy of Christ:  
In Ministry Heb 8:1-12:3

**HEBREWS: THE “BETTER” LIFE:  
Surrounded  
Heb 11:40-12:4**

# Message so far...

- JESUS: BETTER IN REVELATION [1:1-4:13]
- JESUS: BETTER IN MEDIATION [4:14-7:28]
- JESUS: BETTER IN MINISTRY [8:1-12:3]
- Better Promises – 10:19-12:3

# “all these” (33-39)

- Conquered kingdoms; performed righteousness; obtained promises; shut lions; quenched fire; escaped swords; weak made strong; became mighty in war; routed armies.
- Others: gained approval but not promises! mocking, scourging, imprisoned, tempted, sawn, killed w/sword, destitute, wandering

# Something Better

- God is NOT interested in one over another...
- HIS BLESSING is in that which effects all!
  - Not prosperity, but REVIVAL!
  - Not ease, comfort, but PERFECTION
  - If a body, how can only 1 part be blessed?
  - If we are one, can we horde/claim God?
  - If we are HIS, all comes from HIM - 1Co 4:7

# No chapter change...

- Not a new chapter, but the conclusion of ch 11
- The “something better” is for us too!
- Cloud of witnesses: not so much an audience
- but example - Rom 15:4; 2Ti 3:16
- Not spectators, but “testifiers”
- Do we want their testimony/”victory”

# The challenge...

- To know blessing, we must know their stories!
  - Rom 15:4; 1Co 10:11
  - Remember – DIDN'T receive, persevered!
- Who do you feel most like right now?
  - What story are you “in the middle of”?
  - In the limits of where we are and what we see, we need HOPE

# “let us also”

- they did this, we are ‘in the choice’!
  - *apotithemi* – lay aside, lay down, cast off
  - usually a call to leave the old nature behind
- every encumbrance
  - *ogkos* (1x) bulk, mass burden, weight
  - Training weights, run without these!
  - What needs to be left behind today?
    - Col 3:8; Eph 4:22-25; Ro 13:12; Ja 1:21; 1Pt 2:1

# “easily entangles” ??

- *euperistatos* – (1x) skillfully surrounding, “besetting sin”
  - Puritans - a sin each one is tripped by
  - The sin you are sensitive to, the one that gets you, ‘guaranteed fail’
  - pride, education, social standing, profession
- Things that “replace” God... entertainment, comfort, money, “love”, etc...



# A.T. Robertson

- "the easily encompassing (or surrounding) sin." In this case apostasy from Christ was that sin. In our cases it may be some other sin. The verbal adjective reminds one of the ring of wild beasts in the jungle that encircle the camp-fire at night each ready to pounce upon a careless victim."

## Another comment...

- Pleasure, indulgence, the tongue, the flesh, pride, possessions, worldly friends, television, sports—what is it that consumes my energy and keeps me from following God fully and wholly—that trips me up far, far too often. We must strip it off or else it will entangle us and trip us up and we will never finish the race.

# Something Better

- Not a video game or a spectator position...
- This race is about endurance! (*hupomone*) patience!
- Don't stop running... make it to the finish...
- How?
- Fix your eyes...JESUS - Lit. "look away to Jesus"
  - Where our eyes go, we go!
  - By focusing on the sin, we sin!!!
  - His example, promises, empowerment...HS

# Jesus is Better!

- author, *archegos*, pioneer, pathfinder, He 2:10
- finisher, *teleiotes* (1x) completer, one who has done it
- Endured the cross, 'despised the despising' and sat down!
- Jesus is our ultimate example!

# THE Great Promise

- He endured all hatred, malice, sin - from us
- YET, He loves, supports, strengthens us!!
  - We are not greater than the Master, we are servants of Him
  - This happened to Him, do our trials compare?
- HE IS VICTOR... and we??? He focused on the JOY!!!

# Guard:

- Grow weary (*kamno*, 3x) sick or faint
  - Lose heart – fainting in your souls...
  - We **MUST FINISH** the race with HIM
- Preparation for the last section:
  - What do we need to lay aside?
  - What is our “besetting sin”?
  - What are we willing to do to “finish”?