



“The Superiority of Jesus”

The Book of Hebrews

Study Guide

THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS
Studies in The Book of Hebrews

THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS
Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Calvary Men's Ministry **2024/2025** *Schedule*

Date	Lesson	Text	
10.01.2024		Introduction	
10.08.2024		Break (No Study)	
10.12.2024		SoCal Men's Conference (Saturday)	
10.15.2024	1	Hebrews 1:1-14	
10.22.2024	2	Hebrews 2:1-18	
10.29.2024	3	Hebrews 3:1-19	
11.05.2024	4	Hebrews 4:1-16	
11.12.2024	5	Hebrews 5:1-14	
11.19.2024	6	Hebrews 6:1-20	
11.26.2024	7	Hebrews 7:1-28	
12.03.2024		Christmas Break	
12.10.2024		Christmas Break	
12.14.2024		Christmas Breakfast (Saturday)	
12.17.2024		Christmas Break	
12.24.2024		Christmas Break	
12.31.2024		Christmas Break	
01.07.2025	8	Hebrews 8:1-13	
01.14.2025	9	Hebrews 9:1-15	
01.21.2025	10	Hebrews 9:16-28	
01.28.2025	11	Hebrews 10:1-18	
02.04.2025	12	Hebrews 10:19-25	
02.11.2025	13	Hebrews 10:26-31	
02.18.2025		Guest Speaker	
02.25.2025	14	Hebrews 10:32-39	
03.04.2025	15	Hebrews 11:1-7	
03.11.2025	16	Hebrews 11:8-19	
03.18.2025	17	Hebrews 11:20-40	
03.25.2025	18	Hebrews 12:1-11	
04.01.2025	19	Hebrews 12:12-29	
04.05.2025		CSOC Men's Conference (Saturday)	
04.08.2025		Break (No Study)	
04.15.2025		Passion Week (Easter 04/20)	
04.22.2025	20	Hebrews 13:1-8	
04.29.2025	21	Hebrews 13:9-25	

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Introduction ***Book of Hebrews***

Journey of Faith

Traditionally, Paul the Apostle was thought to be the author of the Book of Hebrews. However, since the third century this has been questioned, and the consensus among most modern scholars is that the author is unknown. There are arguments for Paul's authorship and against. Some have suggested Luke, Barnabas, Apollos, and Priscilla. In my humble opinion I still believe it's the Apostle Paul.

The Book of Hebrews was written probably before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Because the religious sacrifices and ceremonies are referred to in the book, but no mention is made of the destruction of the Temple. The time of the writing would appear to be before A.D. 64. Christianity grew throughout the world but Jews who had accepted Jesus as Messiah were struggling emotionally, physically, and economically. They had become outcasts in society, losing their property and suffering great persecution by those who rejected Jesus, especially the Romans.

The Romans felt the gods were punishing them for those who abandoned them for Christianity. Emperor Nero blamed the Christians for the rebellion, uprising and fires in Rome. Nero was a madman and ordered the Apostle Paul to be beheaded and would burn Christians alive in his garden as human torches. The Book of Hebrews was written between A.D. 62 – A.D. 69.

This message of the superiority of Jesus would have been particularly important to Jewish Christians in Rome who were struggling under Nero's persecution and were considering moving back toward the Mosaic Law. The writer to the Hebrews showed these Jewish Christian believers that though they were faced with great suffering, they needed to be reassured that Christianity was true and that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

The theme of the letter is the doctrine of the person of Jesus Christ and His role as mediator between God and humanity. The old covenant is insufficient. The new covenant is better than the old covenant. Faith in Jesus Christ as Messiah is necessary to please God and to share in salvation. Faith results in perseverance, endurance, developing strength of character and giving us confidence in our hope of salvation.

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.
(Hebrews 11: 6)

Jesus is the absolute superior revelation of God and is our eternal High Priest. He is superior in His Person to the prophets, angels, Moses, the sabbath. He is also better than the earthly priesthood, the old covenant (Mosaic system), animal sacrifices and daily offerings. Because Jesus Christ is Superior as a Person, Priest and Savior we have faith to believe God, hope to endure trials, and love to encourage others.

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Throughout its pages, the Book of Hebrews makes clear that Jesus Christ exceeds all other heavenly and earthly beings. He alone is the Son of Man and the Son of God. Jesus is indeed superior to all other philosophies, worldviews and religions.

Jesus, Himself confirmed this when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14: 6)

"The Father and I are one" (John 10: 30)

The superiority of Christ over everyone and everything is clearly demonstrated by the author. Christianity supersedes all other religions and can never be surpassed. Where can one find anything better than Christ? Living in Christ is having the best there is in this life and the life that is to come.

Again, Jews who had become Christians in the first century were tempted to fall back into Judaism because of their uncertainty of Jesus Christ superiority, the security of Jewish custom, and persecution. Today believers are also tempted to fall back into legalism, fulfilling minimum religious requirements rather than pressing on in genuine faith. We must strive to live by faith each day with understanding that it is by grace that we have been saved through faith and it is a gift of God.

The writer makes his strong appeal is based on the superiority of Christ over Judaism. Christ is better than the angels, for they worship Him. Christ is better than the Moses, for He created him. He is better than the Aaronic priesthood, for His sacrifice was once for all time. He is better than the Law, for He mediates a better covenant. In short there is more to be gained in Christ than to be last in Judaism.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

I. The Superiority of Christ's Person – (Hebrews 1: 1 – 4: 13)

- A. The Superiority of Christ over the Prophets
- B. The Superiority of Christ over the Angels
- C. The Superiority of Christ over Moses

II. The Superiority of Christ's Work – (Hebrews 4: 14 – 10: 18)

- A. The Superiority of Christ's Priesthood
- B. The Superiority of Christ's Covenant
- C. The Superiority of Christ's Sanctuary and Sacrifice

III. The Superiority of the Christian's Walk of Faith – (Hebrews 10:19 - 13)

- A. Exhortation to Full Assurance of Faith
- B. Endurance of Faith
- C. Exhortation to Love
- D. Conclusion

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Lesson 1

Please Read Hebrews 1: 1 – 14

Look for verses that would help you understand why this book was written, what is the main message, and how this book applies to your life. Also read the “Book of Hebrews Introduction”.

Introduction: What is the basic message God gave us through His Son? First of all, Jesus taught us that God is love. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” He taught that God is merciful, gracious, compassionate, and forgiving. He taught that God is light. Jesus also taught that God wants us to love one another, even as He loves us. May we hear God’s voice clearly as He speaks to us about life, love, our relationship to Him, and our relationship with one another. May God help us to really listen. May we obey His voice and love others as He would have us to love.

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. Give three examples of how God spoke through the prophets concerning the Messiah, Jesus Christ?

1)

2)

3)

2. Give three examples of how God spoke through His Son Jesus concerning the salvation of all mankind?

1)

2)

3)

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- According to Hebrews 1: 2, what period of time would Jesus come to speak to His people and to us? Why is this time important to consider?
- Did God the Father say about the supremacy of His Son, Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 1: 2 – 4?
- Read Colossians 1: 15 – 20.
What description does the Apostle Paul give regarding the supremacy and preeminence of Jesus Christ?
- What does the phrase *“the express image of His person”* mean to you?
- What position of honor does Jesus have according to Hebrews 1: 3?

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4. We are told in Hebrews 1: 4 that Jesus is “so much better than the angels”. What authority is in the name of Jesus according to Philippians 2: 8 – 11?

- List the examples of Jesus Christ being “so much better than the angels” in Hebrews 1: 5 – 14?

- What were the angels created to do according to Hebrews 1: 14 and Psalm 103: 19 – 22?

5. How has Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made you “so much better” than you were before you knew Him?

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Lesson 2

Please Read Hebrews 2: 1 – 18

Introduction: As man, the Lord Jesus Christ in His sovereignty, His sufferings, and His sympathy meets all the needs of men. As the Son of God, He might seem remote and unapproachable, but as the Son of Man He is the nearest of kin to all mankind. Much is made of this later in the letter, when the discussion turns to the priesthood of the Lord. In the meantime, we must know that the Son, for all His dazzling superiority, is near and approachable, just the kind of Savior we need.

Pastor John Phillips

1. What wisdom, warnings, and insights do we learn from Hebrews 2: 1 – 3? (Read in different translations: NIV, NLT & ESV)
 - How does Proverbs 4: 10 – 13 encourage you in your walk with God?
 - What does “drift away” mean to you?
 - In 2 Peter 1: 3 – 11 what can we do to assure that we will never fall away?

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2. How did God confirm His message to us according to Hebrews 2: 4?

1)

2)

3)

4)

3. In what ways does Hebrews 2: 5 – 9 speak of the humanity of Jesus?

4. Why was Jesus given the position “a little lower than the angels” according to Hebrews 2: 9 – 15?

- List the things He has done for you:

5. Jesus is greater than the angels. Yet, He came to this earth as a man announced by an angel to Mary found in Luke 1: 26 – 38. What do we specifically learn about the cradle and the cross in Hebrews 2: 14 – 15?

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- What further understanding do we receive about this in John 1: 10 – 14?
6. Read Hebrews 2: 16 – 18. What was an additional reason Jesus came as the Son of Man?
- Hebrews 2: 18 says, *“Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.”* How does this verse speak into your circumstance today? How has He been able to help in your suffering, pain, hardships and testing?
 - In Hebrews 2: 18 what three words speak to you the loudest?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

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Lesson 3

Please Read Hebrews 3: 1 – 19

Introduction: To the Jewish people, Moses was a great hero; he had led their ancestors, the Israelites, from Egyptian bondage to the border of the Promise Land. He also had written the first five books of the Old Testament, and he was the prophet through whom God had given the law; therefore, Moses was the greatest prophet in the Scriptures. But Jesus is worthy of greater honor as the central figure of faith than Moses, who was merely a human servant. Jesus is more than human; He is God Himself. As Moses led the people of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, so Christ leads us out of sin's slavery. Why settle for Moses, the author of Hebrews asks, when you can have Jesus Christ, who appointed Moses?

Life Application Study Bible

1. What two marks of being a Christian are given to us in Hebrews 3: 1?

1)

2)

2. What two titles are given to Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 3: 1?

1)

2)

- Describe in your words the definition of these titles:

3. The word "*faithful*" is used three times in Hebrews 3: 2 – 5. How was the word "*faithful*" used in the ministry of Moses?

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- Moses was faithful to God's calling not only to deliver Israel but also to prepare the way for the Messiah (his work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later). How was Jesus counted worthy of more glory and honor than Moses according to Hebrews 3: 3 – 6?

- What did Abraham do "by faith" according to Hebrews 11: 8 – 10?

- In what ways have you been faithful to God's calling in your life? Are you looking for the same thing Abraham was looking for?

- 4. In Hebrews 3: 6, it says we are Christ's house "if" we hold fast "firm to the end". This can be translated, "Holding or staying on course". It is important as a Christian to stay on course and to not "drift away". Read Hebrews 3: 7 – 13. What was God's warning and declaration to the children of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness?

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- According to Hebrews 3: 13 what are we told to do and why?

- What encouragement do we receive from 1 Peter 2: 1 – 10? Is there a particular verse that speaks to you?

- 5. Again, in Hebrews 3: 14 – 19, we have a strong warning about staying on course. We are warned to not have a heart of unbelief as those who had been led out of Egypt and as a result died in the wilderness and were unable to enter into the Promise Land or into God's rest. What did Jesus say to us in John 14:1 – 3, 25 – 27? Are you still trusting in His promises?

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Lesson 4

Please Read Hebrews 4: 1 – 16

Introduction: The writer of Hebrews said, *“It is powerful.”* And it is. The power of God’s Word is awesome. In Psalm 33:6 we read, *“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all of the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”* Think of that, the whole, vast universe was made by the word of the Lord, by just the breath of His mouth. We read in Genesis, *“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”* God created all we see and know by the power of His Word. The power of God’s Word is evident in the lives it has transformed. People who were once society’s castoffs, men and women who were looked upon as hopeless and worthless, have been changed and healed by the power of God’s Word. By simply taking it in and meditating on the truths of Scripture, depression has been lifted, hearts have been mended, minds have been transformed, and lives have been changed – forever.

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. What does it mean to you to “enter into His rest”?

2. In Hebrews 4: 1 – 3 we are given a promise of entering into God’s rest. According to verse 3, who will enter into this rest?
 - Who will not enter into God’s rest according to Hebrews 4: 2 – 3 & 6 – 7?

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3. What do the following scriptures teach us about God's rest?

- Genesis 2: 1 – 3

- Exodus 20: 8 – 11

- Deuteronomy 5: 12 – 15

- Leviticus 23: 3 & 32

4. What did Jesus say about “rest” according to Matthew 11: 28 – 30?

- After having read the scriptures above along with Hebrews 4: 8 - 11 what can you do to enter into God's rest?

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5. In order to enter into God's rest, we must cease from our works and labor. The same is true of our salvation. What do we learn from Ephesians 2: 8 – 10?
6. How does the writer of Hebrews describe the Word of God, its authority, function, and purpose, as found in Hebrews 4: 11 – 12?
7. What important insights do we learn about God from Hebrews 4: 13?
8. According to Hebrews 4: 14 – 16, why is Jesus superior to all other High Priests?
9. What privilege do we have as Christians according to Hebrews 4: 16?

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Lesson 5

Please Read Hebrews 5: 1 – 14 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: At the end of Hebrews chapter 4 we found that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our great High Priest who has entered into heaven. We discovered Jesus identifies with our weakness because, as the Son of Man, He faced all the temptations that we faced, but was without sin. As a result, we can come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help when we need it most.

Now as we enter Hebrews chapter 5, we have a brief definition and description of the functions and office of the High Priest that will fully be developed in Hebrews chapters 7 – 10. The writer will close chapter 5 discussing the importance of spiritual growth and maturity in the life of the believer. This topic will continue through Hebrews chapter 6.

Pastor Rick Myers

1. What do we learn about the office and purpose of the high priest according to Hebrews 5: 1 – 4?

- Why would the high priest have to offer up a sacrifice for himself?
- According to Matthew 15: 18 – 19 and Romans 3: 23, what is the condition of the human heart and the state of mankind?

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- What instructions did God give to Moses concerning the office of the high priest according to Leviticus 9: 7 & 16: 1 – 11?

2. According to Hebrews 5: 4 how can someone become a high priest?

- How did Jesus become our High Priest according to Hebrews 5: 5 – 6?

- What qualified Jesus to become our High Priest? Read Hebrews 5: 7 – 11

3. What do we discover in Luke 22: 39 - 46 about prayer and the suffering of Jesus before His death?

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- Have you ever had a time when you fell on your knees before God, anguished of heart? Please explain.
4. The writer was fearful that those he was writing to would not understand what he was about to teach because they were spiritually immature in the understanding of God's Word. What specifically was said to those who were spiritually immature found in Hebrews 5: 11 – 14? (Note the word "dull" is translated "slothful" or "laziness")
- If you could give yourself a grade A, B, C, D, or F for your spiritual maturity what grade would you give yourself and why?

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Lesson 6

Please Read Hebrews 6: 1 – 20 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: “The Lord made amazing promises to Abraham. He called Abraham from his birthplace to parts unknown, and by faith, he obeyed the call of God. The Lord promised Abraham many descendants, though he had no children, and God gave Abraham eyes of faith, to trust Him for the fulfillment of a nation from his loins. Abraham relied on God’s word and waited patiently.

Often, a gap exists between a promise and its fulfillment, but if we patiently endure the interim, our faith can increase. We may be tempted to work things out in our flesh, though futile, as our attempts will usually backfire and slow the process. Patient endurance comes down to faith. Do we believe God’s promises? Is He able to deliver? Are we willing to take God at His Word and wait patiently for His promise?

God eventually fulfilled His promise to Abraham when Isaac was born, and the Lord will also fulfill His promise in your life. Wait on Him. Trust in Him. He alone will bring His promises to fruition.”

Pastor John Randall

1. According to Hebrews 6: 1 – 2 what did the writer consider to be “the basic teachings or elementary *principles* of Christ”? (Please make a list.)

- On a scale from 1 – 10, how would you rate yourself in knowing the basic teachings of God’s Word? What area of teaching could you be stronger?

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2. Read Luke 8: 4 – 14 “The Parable of the Sower”. What understanding and insight do we receive concerning the seed (the Word of God) falling on various soils?

- According to John 10: 27 – 30 what did Jesus say to the Jews who were questioning Him?

- What wonderful truths do we discover in Romans 8: 28 – 39?

3. Our salvation will never be achieved by goods works, but our works reveal our faith. What do we learn from Ephesians 2: 4 – 10 and James 2: 18 – 20?

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- What great truths do we learn about God's unchangeable character according to verses 16 – 18?
- Through God's promises, He has given us hope, and we have great confidence as we hold on to the hope that lies before us. According to Hebrews 6: 19 – 20 where will this hope lead us?

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Lesson 7

Please Read Hebrews 7: 1 – 28 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: The big picture the writer wants us to see is that Jesus perfectly fulfills what was foreshadowed in the Genesis account of Melchizedek. Melchizedek's character type regarding king, priest, righteousness, and peace was fulfilled to perfection in Christ. Melchizedek's qualifications, being without genealogy and without beginning or end, prefigured Jesus who had no priestly genealogy or priestly term of service but was appointed by God and ministers eternally. No one had ever seen all of this until the writer of Hebrews presented it. His heart is full, and he expects his Jewish hearers will feel the same as they reflect on their unsure situations. Brimming over with joy, he now takes them even higher as he presents the superiority of Melchizedek over the Levitical priesthood.

Pastor R. Kent Hughes

1. In Hebrews 6: 20 we read that Jesus forever became our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. What description do we have of Melchizedek found in Hebrews 7: 1 – 3 and Genesis 14: 17 – 20?
 - What were some of the descriptions of Melchizedek that caught your attention and why?

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- What “better hope” and “better covenant” has God given to you through Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 7: 25?

- What was God able to do that you could not do for yourself?
(Refer to Romans 8: 3 – 4, 26 – 27 & Hebrews 4: 14 – 16)

4. According to Hebrews 7: 26 – 28 how is Jesus Christ a better High Priest?

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Lesson 8

Please Read Hebrews 8: 1 – 13 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: Because He desired a relationship with the people, God established a covenant with the children of Israel. It was a wonderful rich covenant, and it failed. God kept His part of the bargain, but man did not keep his. So, it became necessary for God to establish a new covenant, which He brought through His Son. God gives to us a new covenant, a will that desires to please Him, to serve Him, and to obey Him.

At the Last Supper with His disciples there in the upper room, Jesus “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. ‘Likewise He also took the cup after the supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22: 19 – 20). The rules of this new covenant, given in that upper room, are not written externally on tables of stones, they are written in our hearts. What a blessed covenant, what a magnificent truth; God writes His law on our hearts, and then motivates and empowers us to keep them. How great is our God!

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. What are the main points regarding our High Priest in Hebrews 8: 1 – 2?

- What did Jesus say to the woman at the well pertaining to how we should worship the Father found in John 4: 19 – 24?
- According to Mark 16: 19, Acts 2: 32 – 36, Acts 5: 30 – 31, and Hebrews 1: 3, where is Jesus our High Priest currently located and what is His position? Why is this so necessary for us to understand?

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2. Why was it so important for Moses to follow all of God's instructions in building the tabernacle? (Hebrews 8: 3 – 5)
 - The Lord has given us His Word to follow and obey – not just the parts we like, but all of it. What part of His Word is harder for you to obey?

3. According to Hebrews 8:6 what did Jesus (our Mediator) give to us that was better? What further understanding do we come to in 1 Timothy 2: 5 – 6?

4. The Old Covenant was a yoke of bondage, demanding perfect obedience. But the New Covenant emphasizes what God will do for His people – not what they must do for Him. According to Hebrews 8: 7 – 12 and Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34, what did God promise to do in this New Covenant? (Write out the “I will” statements)

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5. In Hebrews 8: 7 and 13, we find the first covenant was replaced because the people were at fault – not the covenant God had given to them. The Lord was showing them that you cannot work your way to earn your salvation, but it is only by God's grace and mercy. What are some of the other "I will" promises Jesus has given us?

1) John 2: 19

2) John 6: 44, 54

3) John 14: 3, 13 – 14, 21

4) John 16: 7

5) Matthew 11: 28

6. In Hebrews 8: 13 we are told, "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."
- Growth often endures seasons of drought and pruning. Think about what you are doing that might be spiritually ineffective or obsolete. What do you believe are the keys to spiritual growth? (See 2 Corinthians 5: 17, John 15: 1 – 5, and 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 17).

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Lesson 9

Please Read Hebrews 9: 1 – 15 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: The high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, the innermost room of the Tabernacle, one day each year to atone for the nation's sins. The Most Holy Place was a small room that contained the Ark of the Covenant (a gold-covered chest containing the original stone tables on which the Ten Commandments were written, a jar of manna, and Aaron's staff). The top of the chest served as the "atonement cover" (the altar) on which the blood would be sprinkled by the high priest on the Day of Atonement. The Most Holy Place was the most scared spot on earth for the Jews and only the high priest could enter it. The other priests and the common people were forbidden to come into the room. Their only access to God was through the high priest, who would offer a sacrifice and use the animal's blood to atone first for his own sins and then for the people's sins.

Life Application Bible

1. In Hebrews 9: 1 – 4 we have a description of the Tabernacle and the furniture within the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. For further details refer to Exodus chapters 25 – 31. What is revealed in Hebrews 9: 5 that is amazing to think about?
(Refer to Exodus 40: 34 – 38)

- "Cherubim" are mighty angels. One of the functions of the cherubim was to serve as guardians. What did these angels guard according to Genesis 3: 24 and Exodus 25: 18 – 22?
- According to Revelation 2: 7 and Revelation 22: 1 – 2, 14 where do we find the "*tree of life*" and what is it producing?

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2. In Hebrews 9: 6 – 8 we have recorded the religious duties of the high priest. What do we learn from verses 8 – 10?

- Why were the gifts and sacrifices unable to cleanse according to Hebrews 9: 9? What does Titus 1: 15 teach us?

3. Jesus Christ is the perfect High Priest. Jesus Christ is the perfect sacrifice for all human sins. He brought a new and better way, far superior than the old system. According to Hebrew 9: 11 – 12 what did Jesus do that was far better than any human priest could do for us?

- When Jesus died on the cross, what happened in the Temple that changed both the Jew's and Gentile's relationship to God according to Mathew 27: 51?
- How has the Lord torn down the curtain in your life that had once separated you from having a relationship with Him? Are there any of those things that you are not willing to not let go of and are struggling to allow God to take over?

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4. According to Hebrews 9: 13, the old system (the old covenant) could only cleanse temporarily. What did Jesus do, not only for you and me, but for the entire world, according to verses 14 – 15? (Make a list)

5. Why did Jesus Christ die for you?

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Lesson 10

Please Read Hebrews 9: 16 – 28 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: Why does forgiveness require the shedding of blood? This is no arbitrary decree on the part of a blood thirsty God, as some have suggested. There is no greater symbol of life than blood; blood keeps us alive. Jesus shed His blood, gave His life, for our sins so that we wouldn't have to experience spiritual death, eternal separation from God. Jesus is the source of life, not death. He gave His own life to pay our penalty for us so that we might live. After shedding His blood for us, Christ rose from the grave and proclaimed victory over sin and death. We can have wonderful confidence in His saving work for us, doing away with sin – past, present, and future. He has forgiven our past sin when He died on the cross; He sacrificed Himself once and for all. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us deal with present sin; He appears before God for us now in heaven, and He promises to return and raise us to eternal life in a world where sin is banished.

Life Application Study Bible

1. Hopefully, everyone who is reading this has a “Living Trust or Will” in place. However, for that “Living Trust or Will” to be activated, what must happen according to Hebrews 9: 16 – 17?

- Hebrews 9:16 in the NLT says, “Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead.”
Don't you think this verse is a little funny or weird – proving a person has really died? How do you prove to someone that a person is dead?

Once that proof is given, the “Living Trust or Will” is activated and the will of that person who has died can now be granted to those who will receive an inheritance.

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

2. How was the first covenant put into effect and how was this demonstrated by what Moses did according to Hebrews 9: 18- 20?

- Write out what Moses said in verse 20:

3. According to Hebrews 9: 21 – 23 what did Moses do with the blood and what was the purpose and significant of his actions?

- Why does forgiveness require the shedding of blood?

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Please read the following Scriptures:

- Genesis 3: 21
 - Genesis 4: 3 – 7 (Why did God respect Abel's offering and not Cain's?)
 - Leviticus 17: 11
 - Matthew 26: 26 – 28
 - Ephesians 1: 7
 - Revelation 12: 11
4. According to Hebrews 9: 24 – 26 where did Jesus Christ “appear” and why is this important for us to understand?
- Did you notice the phrase “*at the end of the ages*”. What do you think this is referring to?
5. There is a quote that I've heard that says “born once, die twice; born twice die, once”. Those who are Christians have been born once physically and once spiritually. When we die, we will go into the presence of God because we have been forgiven and our salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. We will have life with God forevermore! Those who have not received Christ will die a second death and will face eternal judgment. According to Hebrews 9: 26 – 28 what are we “eagerly” waiting for as we live our lives on earth?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

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THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 11

Please Read Hebrews 10: 1 – 18 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: There was to be a cross, a sacrifice and an offering whereby we could be sanctified. The will of God took the Lord Jesus to Gethsemane where, in tears and bloodlike sweat, He yielded afresh to God's will. That will took Him to Gabbatha where His visage was "so marred", and on to Pilate's judgment hall where His back was plowed with a Roman scourge, and where men heaped upon Him their ridicule and scorn. That same sovereign will took Him to Golgotha and to the grave. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb. 10: 10). Once for all sin, once for all time! The result of the Lord's obedience was the procuring for us of a once-for-all sanctification, a positional sanctification that nothing can assail. There was to be not only a cross but a *crown*. If the cross assures us of our sanctification, the crown assures us of our security. "And every priest stands daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifice, which can never take away sins: but this Man, after He offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Heb. 10: 11 – 12). What volumes that one statement had to say to the Hebrews! Every priest stood; this Man sat down.

Dr. John Phillips

1. Read Hebrews 10: 1 – 4. What could the old system of worship **not do** for those who came repeatedly to worship and to be cleansed?

- Why were the Old Covenant sacrifices inferior?

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2. In Hebrews 10: 5 – 7 there is a quote from Psalm 40: 6 – 8. Please read the entire Psalm 40. How does Psalm 40 reveal the plan, purpose and will of God for His Son the Messiah, Jesus Christ?

- God says many times that He doesn't want our gifts and sacrifices when we give them out of ritual or hypocrisy. What does God want first from us according to the following Scriptures:
 - 1 Samuel 15: 22 – 23
 - Psalm 51: 16 – 19
 - Jeremiah 7: 21 – 23
 - Hosea 6: 6
 - Micah 6: 6 – 8
 - Matthew 9: 13

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- Are you still being reminded of your past sins? What does God say in John 3: 17 – 18, Romans 8: 1 – 4, 1 John 3: 20 – 21 and Ephesians 1: 7?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 12

Please Read Hebrews 10: 19 – 25 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: The veil in the temple was a woven cloth curtain 4 inches thick, 30 feet high and 60 feet wide. The purpose of the veil was to keep man from coming to God. It blocked the way to the Most Holy Place where only the high priest was permitted to enter once a year.

But when Christ died on the cross, we are told Jesus cried out with a loud voice, yielded up His spirit and the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. This gave us access through Jesus Christ by His shed blood, to have fellowship with God. *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, 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.* This is the Good News we can all rejoice in as we draw near with a forgiven heart and a clear conscience and a life forever with Christ.

Pastor Rick Myers

1. Do you have the boldness to enter the presence of God? The writer is not talking about entering a temple. Where are we entering and how do we discover the blessings of His presence according to Hebrews 10: 19 – 22?
 - Where is Jesus according to Ephesians 1: 20 and Hebrews 8: 1 – 2, Hebrews 10: 12?
2. What four things is the writer asking you to do? (See Hebrews 10: 22 –25)
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)

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3. Many people today are walking around with a guilty conscience because of the behavior in their past. What assurance do we have in Christ now that He has taken our guilt and shame, from the standpoint of the cross? (Refer to Colossians 1: 13 – 14, Colossians 2: 13 – 14)

- What does it mean to you to “*draw near with a true heart*”?

4. According to Hebrews 10: 23, we are to hold tightly to our faith. Have you ever had a time when you wavered in your faith? (Explain)

- How did Abraham remain faithful to God’s promises according to Romans 4: 16 – 22?

- What did the Apostle Paul say about God’s faithfulness and promises found in 2 Corinthians 1: 18 – 22?

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5. Did you notice that in Hebrews 10: 22 – 24, the writer used the words “faith, hope and love”. What does the Apostle Paul say about “love” in 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13?

- What comes to mind when you read in Hebrews 10: 24 to “*stir up love*”? How do we “*stir up love and good works*” according to this verse?

6. One of the most important things we do as Christians is to meet or assemble. The word “*assembling*” means “to collect together in the same place; to gather together – a complete collection”. What is the purpose of the Church gathering together according to Acts 2: 42 – 47?

- Why is it vital to meet as a body of believers as we see the Day of Christ return approaching?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 13

Please Read Hebrews 10: 26 – 31 (NKJV, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: This is the fourth of the five exhortations found in Hebrews. It is written to believers and follows in sequence with the other exhortations. The believers who begin to *drift* from the Word (Heb. 2: 1-4) will soon *doubt* the Word (Heb.3:7 – 4:13). Soon he will become *dull* towards the Word (Heb. 5:11 – 6:20) and become “lazy” in his spiritual life. This will result in *despising* the Word, which is the theme of this exhortation. The evidence of this “despising” is willful sin. The tense of the verb indicates that Hebrews 10: 26 should read, “For if we willfully *go on sinning*.” This exhortation is not dealing with one particular act of sin, but with an attitude that leads to repeated disobedience. Under the Old Covenant, there were no sacrifices for deliberate and willful sins (Ex. 21: 12-14; Num. 15:27-31). Presumptuous sinners who despised Moses’ Law and broke it were executed (Deut. 17: 1 – 7). This explains why David prayed as he did in Psalm 51. Because he deliberately sinned, he should have been slain; but he cried out for God’s mercy. David knew that even a multitude of sacrifices could not save him. All he could offer was the sacrifice of a broken heart.

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. What did the writer of Hebrews want to make clear to those who were going back into Judaism according to Hebrews 10: 26 – 27?

- Despite everything God has done, they were still looking and considering going back to a dead religion. What strong warning is given in verse 27?
- Why do you think they were considering going back into the world or into a works-oriented religion?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

- Name some of the Christ rejecting religions that you know of that are teaching false doctrines, even denying the deity of Jesus Christ.
2. What did Jesus say about the judgment of God found in John 5: 22 – 30?
3. Read again Hebrews 10: 28 – 31. These passages are very sobering words. What does the Lord make clear about His sacrifice on the cross according to the following Scriptures?
- John 14: 6
 - Acts 4: 10 – 12
 - Philippians 2: 5 – 11
 - Romans 5: 8 – 10

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

4. What do the following statements mean to you:

- *“Those who have trampled on the Son of God”*
- Those who *“have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy”*.
- Those who *“have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit”*.

5. I think one of the most terrifying verses in the Bible is Hebrews 10:31, *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* Our God is a loving, gracious, merciful, and kind heavenly Father. Do you have any fear of being in the hands of the living God? (Discuss this topic within your group)

- How does John 10: 27 – 30 encourage your walk with the Lord?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 14

Please Read Hebrews 10: 32 – 39 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: Hebrews encourages believers to persevere in their Christian faith and conduct when facing persecution and pressure. We don't usually think of suffering as good for us, but it can build our character and our patience. During times of great stress, we may feel God's presence more clearly and find help from Christians we never thought would care. Knowing that Jesus is with us in our suffering and that He will return one day to put an end to all pain helps us grow in our faith and relationship with Him. When you are tempted to falter in your faith or to turn back from following Christ, keep focused on what he has done for you and what He offers in the future.

Life Application Study Bible

1. Do you remember when you first followed Jesus? Do you recall the love, joy and peace in your heart? However, not everyone was happy with your decision. Do you remember when you first experienced ridicule, pressure, or even persecution from family, friends or co-workers about your commitment to the Lord? (Explain what happened)
-
- Hebrews 10: 32 (in the New Living Translation) speaks about "*remaining faithful*". How have you remained faithful to the Lord?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

2. Hebrews 10: 33 – 34 reminds us of when the Apostles were first persecuted for their faith. Persecution forced the believers out of their homes in Jerusalem, and along with them went the Good News. Sometimes we must become uncomfortable before we move and take action. What lessons can we learn and apply to our lives found in the following passages in the Book of Acts?

- Acts 4: 1 – 13

- Acts 7: 54 – 59

- Acts 8: 1 – 4

- Acts 11: 19 – 21

- Acts 12: 1 – 11

- What did the Jesus say about His sufferings in Matthew 5: 10 – 12?

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3. How does suffering build our character and endurance according to Romans 5:1 – 8? (Also refer to James 1: 2 – 4, 12)

4. In Hebrews 10: 34, the writer speaks of their help and compassion as they suffered together. In the first century, prisoners had no means of survival apart from visits from friends or family who brought food and water and clothing. What did Jesus say in Matthew 25: 34 – 40 about those who were willing to serve their brothers and sisters in the faith?

5. God has given us His promise of forgiveness and eternal life through the precious blood of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us. According to Hebrews 10: 35 – 39 what do we need to be reminded of as we walk and live by faith?

- What did the Apostle Paul say in Romans 1: 16 – 17 that gives us hope and encouragement as we live in these last days?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 15

Please Read Hebrews 11: 1 – 7 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: The writer concludes the second major section of his letter. He has demonstrated great truths concerning the superior person of Christ. He has discussed at great length Calvary's superior provision by showing that, both in His preeminence and in His priesthood, the Lord Jesus is a better Savior. He has shown that, because of Calvary, we have not only a better Savior but a better security, a better sanctuary, and a better sacrifice – better indeed, than anything to be found in the Hebrew (or in any other) religion. He has introduced three warning passages, two of them of major importance, to prove that the seeker of truth has everything to gain by going on and everything to lose by drawing back. The substance in Christ cannot be traded away with impunity for the mere shadows of Judaism. He is now prepared to discuss the superior principles of Christianity, and he begins by showing how even in Old Testament times, men and women walked by faith and not by sight.

Dr. John Phillips

1. In Hebrews 11: 1 – 2, 6, we are not given the definition of faith, but the description of faith. How would you describe faith according to these verses?

- What examples did Jesus give us in the following Scriptures about faith:
 - Matthew 6: 30
 - Matthew 8: 5 – 10
 - Matthew 17: 14 – 21

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- Read Romans 10: 17. Where does faith come from and how is it demonstrated according to James 2: 18 – 26?
2. What did the Apostle Paul say about faith in Romans 3: 28 and in Galatians 3: 10 – 14?
- How are we saved according to Ephesians 2: 8 – 10?
 - What does having faith mean to the life of the believer according to 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9?
3. Underline in your Bible the phrase, “By faith”. How many times is this term used? What point was the writer trying to make in Hebrews 11: 3?
- What do we learn Genesis 1: 1 – 3 and Colossians 1: 15 – 17 that we can only believe by faith?

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4. According to Hebrews 11: 4, Abel was the first martyr of the faith. Why was Abel's sacrifice more excellent than Cain's? (Refer to Genesis 4: 1 – 10)
5. Read Genesis 5: 21 – 24 and Hebrews 11: 5 – 6. What did Enoch do that pleased God? The word "translated" means "carried across". What do you think happened to Enoch?
- "By faith", do you believe 1 Thessalonians 4: 14 – 17? How is this evidenced in your life?
 - How are you "diligently seeking Him" today? (Refer to Matthew 6: 33 & 1 John 5: 2 – 5)
6. You can read Noah's story in Genesis 6: 5 through 9: 17. What faith characteristics do you see in Noah's journey? How does Noah's story compare to ours today?

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Lesson 16

Please Read Hebrews 11: 8 – 19 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: The story of the Bible chronicles the stories of waiting of individuals, of a nation, and of the early church. Noah waited for the rain to begin and the floods to subside; Abraham and Sarah waited for a son; Joseph waited to be reunited with his family; the Israelites waited to be freed from slavery, to enter the promised land, to be freed from exile, and for the Messiah to save them. Hebrews 11, the faith chapter, lists many individuals throughout biblical history who by faith waited but “did not receive the things promised,” only seeing “them from a distance”. Today we wait for Christ’s return and an end to sorrow, pain, and death. We’re longing for “a better country” – heaven. The author of Hebrews tells us to “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful” Hebrews 10: 23.

Our Daily Walk (June 2024)

1. Have you ever obeyed God by taking a step of faith, not knowing exactly where it would lead? (Explain)

“True biblical faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of circumstances and consequences.” Warren Wiersbe

2. What three things did the Lord promise Abraham recorded in Genesis 12: 1 – 3?

1)

2)

3)

THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

Studies in The Book of Hebrews

- What did the Lord say about His blessings upon Abraham?

- How has the Lord blessed you and your family?

- 3. The Lord told Abraham that he would receive an *inheritance*. What do the following Scriptures say about God's inheritance for you?
 - Matthew 19: 29

 - Matthew 25: 34

 - John 14: 1 – 3

 - 1 Peter 1: 3 – 4

 - Ephesians 1: 13 – 14

- 4. What seems impossible for us is not impossible for God. According to Hebrews 11: 9 – 16 what was Abraham really looking for on his journey of faith?

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- Like Abraham, we are living in a tent (physical body) waiting for our heavenly inheritance. How does 2 Corinthians 4: 16 – 18, 2 Corinthians 5: 1 and Philippians 3: 20 – 21 encourage you today?
5. Both Abraham and Sarah were elderly and well beyond the age to have children. Yet, “by faith”, what did Sarah believe according to Hebrews 11: 11 – 13?
- Why was a child born from the seed of Abraham with Sarah so important? (Genesis 16: 1 – 6)
6. Hebrews 11: 17 – 19 was not only a test for Abraham concerning his faith and obedience, but also a typology and picture for us to understand. What was Abraham willing to do to be obedient to God? (Refer to Genesis 22: 1 – 14)
- What typology and picture do we come to understand in these passages concerning the Messiah? (Refer to John 3: 16, Matthew 20:18 – 19)

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 17

Please Read Hebrews 11: 20 – 40 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: In Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, we have four generations of faith. These men sometimes failed, but they were devoted to God and trusted His Word. Isaac passed the promises and the blessings along to Jacob, and Jacob shared them with his twelve sons. Jacob was a pilgrim, for even as he was dying, he leaned on his pilgrim staff (v.21). The faith of Joseph was certainly remarkable. After the way his family treated him, you would think he would have abandoned his faith; but instead, it grew stronger. Even the ungodly influence of Egypt did not weaken his trust in God. Joseph did not use his family, his job, or his circumstances as an excuse for unbelief. We have to admire the faith of the patriarchs. They did not have a complete Bible, and yet their faith was strong. They handed God's promises down from one generation to another. In spite of their failures and testing, these men and women believed God and He bore witness of their faith. How much more faith you and I should have!

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. Hebrews chapter 11 is called "The Hall of Faith". Each of these men and women have their own unique life story and demonstration of faith with many lessons for us to learn. According to Hebrews 11: 20 – 29 what biblical characters would you cite as having the greatest level of faith? Why? (Refer to the Books of Genesis & Exodus)

- Who are you more like regarding your faith: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, or Moses? Why?

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2. What all these heroes of the faith had in common was that they were looking for a future promise. What happened in each one of their lives that caused them to be a man or woman of faith?

- How do you think your level of faith would have been affected if you had lived in the days prior to Jesus' life – if you only had had the promise of a Savior without the actual fulfillment of the promise?

- Read 2 Peter 3: 1 – 10. Do you see these things happening today? Why is God being patient?

3. Read the account of Rahab in Joshua 2: 1 – 21 and the victory at Jericho in Joshua 6: 1 – 25. How does Joshua's faith and obedience differ from Rahab's faith and obedience?

- Do you know someone like Rahab, who have a shady past or soiled reputation, yet have a real and growing faith in God? How do most Christians relate to such people?

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- What do you think made Rahab different from all the other people in Jericho?
- Read in Hebrews 11: 32 – 38 of many other heroes of faith who were victorious and yet suffered many trials and hardships. They believed, “through faith” in the living God, that His Word was true and His promises real. Do you believe that God will keep His promises to you? How has God given you the victory even in suffering?
- According to Hebrews 11: 39 – 40 there were promises they had not received. There are also promises we have not received. What are some of those promises yet to be fulfilled?
- We, as the Church, the Bride of Christ, have completed God’s perfect plan for both Jew and Gentile, showing the way of salvation “through faith” in Christ (Ephesians 2: 13 – 16). He has given us a good reputation and testimony.
What is your “good testimony”? Do you also have a good reputation with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and those you serve in ministry?

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 18

Please Read Hebrews 12: 1 – 11 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: A weight is anything that would tear the people of God away from Him or dull their spiritual hunger for His Word. It's anything that would dull their desire for prayer or take away their spiritual appetites for the things of God. Anything that reduces the importance of Bible study and makes this world system more attractive is a weight. Perhaps it will help you if I share my own method of determining whether something is harmless or harmful. I have prepared a checklist that I use from time to time to help me make the right decisions in some of life's gray areas. Consider applying these four principles to help you choose the best course to follow: 1. Does it build me up spiritually? 2. Does it bring me under its power? 3. Do I have an uneasy conscience about it? 4. Could it cause someone else to stumble?

Pastor Greg Laurie

1. The New Living Translation says in verse 1, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses"*, referring to chapter 11. Their faithfulness is a constant encouragement to us. Do you have people in your life that are an encouragement to you? How do they keep you on track?

2. What are some of the "weights" you are carrying (not necessarily sins, but things that may impede your spiritual growth)?
 - According to Hebrews 12: 1, when we are weighed down spiritually from temptations, distractions, and pressures of this world, how should we respond?

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- In Hebrews 12: 1, we are also told *“let us run with endurance (steady determination) the race that is set before us”*. In running a race, an athlete would not wear army boots or heavy body armor. What does the Apostle Paul say about, “lay aside, strip off, throw off”, in Ephesians 4: 20 – 32? (Also refer to Colossians 3: 5 – 16)
3. How are we to run the spiritual race set before us according to the following passages?
- 1 Corinthians 9: 24 – 27
 - 2 Timothy 2:5
 - Hebrews 12: 1 – 3
4. *“Looking unto Jesus”* means, *“looking away from all else, looking at that which fills the heart.”* In what practical ways are you looking at Jesus?

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- The other part of Hebrews 12: 2 says, “*the author and finisher of our faith.*” The word “author” means, “one who takes the lead”. This means Jesus ran ahead of you, finishing the race, and has been victorious. How did Jesus finish the race, and how was He victorious according to Hebrews 12: 2?
5. According to Hebrews 12: 3 – 11, we, who are sons, will experience discipline from the Lord. How does this divine discipline confirm what our relationship to the Lord is?
- Read Hebrews 12: 11. What will the discipline and training of the Lord produce in your life? (Refer to James 3: 17 – 18 and Romans 8: 18)
 - How has God’s discipline and training helped you in your daily life? Are your eyes on the finish line? (see 2 Timothy 4: 7 – 8)

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 19

Please Read Hebrews 12: 12 – 29 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: God is speaking to us today through His Word and His providential workings in this world. We had better listen! If God shook things in Sinai, and those who refused to hear were judged, how much more responsible are we today who have experienced the blessings of the New Covenant! God, today, is shaking things. Have you read the newspapers lately? He wants to tear down the “scaffolding” and reveal the unshakable realities that are eternal. Alas, too many people, including Christians, are building their lives on things that can shake. The “shaking” quotation is from Haggai 2: 6 and refers to that time when the Lord shall return and fill His house with glory. As events draw nearer to that time, we shall see more shaking in this world. But a Christian can be confident, for he shall receive an unshakable kingdom. In fact, he is a part of God’s kingdom today.

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. Many people, including Christians, are tired and weak today, on the verge of giving up. How does Hebrews 12: 12 – 14 encourage us to keep running the race as we live in today’s world?
 - How do the following Scriptures speak to your heart and empower your walk with the Lord?
 - Proverbs 4: 25 – 27
 - Romans 12: 18
 - 1 Peter 1: 13 – 16

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2. Hebrews 12: 15 – 17 gives us an exhortation not to be bitter but to be gracious. This bitterness is referred to as a “poisonous root of bitterness.” What do the following Scriptures say about bitterness:

- Psalm 64: 1 – 3

- Acts 8: 20 – 23

- Ephesians 4: 31 – 32

3. Read Hebrews 12: 18 – 24. What a relief it is to move from Mount Sinai to Mount Zion! Mount Sinai represents the Old Covenant of Law, and Mount Zion represents the New Covenant of grace in Jesus Christ. How do we approach the presence of God as a Christian according to these Scriptures?

- Hebrews 4: 16

- Matthew 11: 28 – 30

- Revelation 22: 17

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4. Hebrews 12: 22 – 24 tells us that our hope is to come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God. What understanding do we come to about our future dwelling place in Revelation 21: 1 – 7?
 - What does 1 Timothy 2: 5 – 6 and Hebrews 8: 6 say about our “Mediator”?

5. Hebrews 12: 25 – 29 is the writers fifth warning of the danger of refusing God’s invitation to salvation through Jesus Christ. For all who have received God’s grace, we are thankful and hopeful for what the future will bring. How does Hebrews 12: 28 – 29 speak to you about serving and worshipping God?

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Lesson 20

Please Read Hebrews 13: 1 – 8 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: If you like to get letters from close, loving friends you will enjoy this last chapter of Hebrews for it affects us as much as it did its original readers. The great pastoral heart of the writer comes to the fore in his closing words. Far from being an unrelated addendum, written perhaps by another hand or at another time as some commentators have claimed, the chapter is a natural close for one who has finished his teaching and warnings and now gives some final words of loving application. One by one, he touches on the kinds of behavior by Christians which will impress a secularized society with the value and power of Christian truth. The general acceptance of religious pluralism in America has made standard methods of Christian witness less and less effective. Christians are now being judged, not on their teachings, but on their lives. What qualities of life will favorably influence the Buddhist family down the street, or the Vietnamese couple who live together in the apartment downstairs, who are turned off by church and know next to nothing about the Bible? This first-century author confronts the same kind of pluralistic world with urgings that work in any age.

Ray C. Stedman

1. The writer gives us seven actions that will demonstrate our faith. What are those seven actions according to Hebrews 13: 1 – 7?

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- What did the Apostle John say about love in 1 John 4: 7 – 11?

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- Read Matthew 25: 31 – 40. When was the last time you visited someone in the hospital or retirement home? Have you ever served in a food distribution or soup kitchen?
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2. There were many times in the Old Testament that angels would appear. Where do we see angels appearing in the New Testament and for what purpose?

 3. Hebrews 13:3 tells us to remember those who are imprisoned or suffering. How can we do this today?

 4. The first part of Hebrews 13: 4 in the NLT says, “Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage.” What did Jesus say about marriage in Matthew 19: 3 – 6?
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- What did Jesus say about immorality and adultery in Matthew 5:27-30?

 - What do you think Jesus meant by this?

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- What are some practical ways we can take drastic measures to deal with the lust that can so easily ensnare us?

5. It's easy to fall into the trap of always wanting more. The marketing ads are all around us, luring us to buy the next great product. We are told in Hebrews 13: 5 – 6, “Be content with what you have”. Are you content with what God has given you? What did the Lord promise in these verses?

- How does 1 Timothy 6: 6 -12 confirm the will of God for your life?

6. It's always good to remember the leaders in the church. The pastor, assistant pastors, and elders. These men should be in our prayers as they teach the Word of God and lead the church. How often to you pray for your pastor and leaders?

7. Hebrews 13: 8 is a great verse, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*” The meaning is clear: God’s Word and promises do not change. How does 1 Peter 1: 22 – 25 speak about your life and His Word?

Notes

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 21

Please Read Hebrews 13: 9 – 25 (NKJV & NLT)

Introduction: Sacrifice means giving something of value. I may sacrifice of my time to come over and help you with a project. I may sacrifice the seat I am occupying so that someone else can sit down. Scripture talks a great deal about sacrifices we are to offer to God. We are encouraged to offer Him the sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips. This implies that sometimes we won't feel like praising God, but we need to do it anyway. Other times, our praise is a spontaneous response to God's goodness. I find myself breaking out in spontaneous praise whenever I contemplate all that God has done. I think of the blessings in my life, I think of you, and I think of this work that God has done. And my heart just burst forth in praise. We are also told to sacrifice of our material goods. God is pleased whenever we care for one another, whenever we see a brother in need and give to cover that need. He is blessed when we see others with His eyes, when we consider the poor and reach out to help them. As you offer sacrifices of praise and good works to your Father, may you overflow with the joy and fulfillment of blessing your God.

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. According to Hebrews 13: 9 – 14 apparently, some were teaching that Old Testament ceremonies and rituals were important for salvation. Again, God's Word does not change. We must beware of false teaching!
 - What did Peter say about false teachers in 2 Peter 2: 1 – 3?

 - What would be considered false teaching in the church today?

 - How can we guard ourselves against false teaching?

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2. According to Hebrews 9: 12 – 14, what did Christ's sacrifice do that animal sacrifices could never do?

- What warning and encouragement are we given in Colossians 2: 8 – 10?

3. As we conclude the Book of Hebrews and have understood all that Jesus has done for us, there is only one thing we should do. Write out Hebrews 13: 15:

- When was the last time you did this? How was it a sacrifice to God?

- Do you love worshipping the Lord? How and why should we praise the lord according to Psalm 150?
 - What's another way we can express our worship to the Lord according to Romans 12: 1 – 2?

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4. What does Hebrews 13: 16 say God is well pleased with?

- Read Hebrews 11: 6 and James 2: 14 – 18. What are these verses saying about what pleases God?

i. From this, what can we determine does not please God?

5. Hebrews 13: 20 – 25 seems to touch on the major themes of the Book of Hebrews. What areas of this closing benediction catch your attention?

Hebrews is a call to Christian maturity. Christian maturity means making Christ the beginning and end of our faith. To grow in maturity, we must center our lives on Him, not depending on religious ritual, not falling back into sin, not trusting in ourselves, and not letting anything come between us and Christ. Christ is sufficient and superior.

Life Application Study Bible

6. How has studying the Book of Hebrews helped you to grow in your relationship with the Lord? (Share with your group)

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Studies in The Book of Hebrews

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