

Hebrews

The Superiority of Jesus Christ

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Hebrews 1:1-3

by
Scott Hathaway

Introduction to Hebrews

The book of Hebrews is occupied with contemplation of the most excellent theme there is, namely, the excellency of Jesus Christ! What John saw as He wrote the book of Revelation, a revealing of Jesus Christ in His glory, the writer of Hebrews sees, not in visions, but in doctrine. The book strives to point out Christ's glory and exaltation by showing how much superior our Lord Jesus is. He is superior to the prophets and superior to the angels. He has a better name and a better priesthood. His priesthood has a superior origin. He is priest of a better covenant, done in a better sanctuary, made possible by His far superior sacrifice. Because of His superiority, we are made partakers of His glory by becoming joint-heirs together with Him in the New Covenant, and we have better privileges than the Old Testament saints who have gone before us. We have more fullness in our view of the Lord and this will also transform us so that we have superior behavior as well.

The book gives no specific reference to the author and this has led to much debate among Christian scholars and theologians through the years. I believe the author to be Paul and I will refer to Paul as the author in this study guide. I cannot be dogmatic about this matter. No matter which human author was used to pen this book, the inspiration of all its contents belongs to the Holy Spirit, for this is a divine book. For more information about the author of Hebrews, I highly recommend *An Exposition of Hebrews*, by Arthur Pink. This book has been vital to my understanding of Hebrews.

The book also lists no recipients of the letter. This is very unusual. However, due to the content of the book, the Old Testament references, and the fact that no Gentile heresies are exposed in the book, it has been assumed very early that the book's audience consisted of Jewish believers. Based on the content, we know that these Jewish believers were being tempted to wander partially back into Judaism and mix it with Christianity. We know that salvation is by Christ alone. Adding anything else to the mixture causes it to come out something other than the true gospel. This was the great danger in the book of Hebrews. Paul goes about to systematically show that Christ (and hence Christianity) is far superior to everything else! In this wonderful book, we see a glimpse of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and we stand in awe.

Outline of Hebrews*

Part One: The Superiority of Christ's Person (1:1-4:13)

- I. The Superiority of Christ over the Prophets (1:1-3)
- II. The Superiority of Christ over the Angels (1:4-2:18)
 - A. Christ is Superior because of His Deity (1:4-14)
 - B. First Warning: Danger of Neglect (2:1-4)
 - C. Christ is Superior because of His Humanity (2:5-18)
- III. The Superiority of Christ over Moses (3:1-4:13)
 - A. Christ is Superior to Moses in His Work (3:1-4)
 - B. Christ is Superior to Moses in His Person (3:5-6)
 - C. Second Warning: Danger of Unbelief (3:7-4:13)
 - 1. Danger of Hardening the Heart (3:7-19)
 - 2. Challenge to Enter His Rest (4:1-13)

Part Two: The Superiority of Christ's Work (4:14-10:18)

- I. The Superiority of Christ's Priesthood (4:14-7:28)
 - A. Christ is Superior in His Position (4:14-16)
 - B. Christ is Superior in His Qualifications (5:1-10)
 - 1. Aaronic Priesthood (5:1-4)
 - 2. Mechizedekian Priesthood (5:5-10)
 - C. Third Warning: Danger of Not Maturing (5:11-6:20)
 - 1. Dullness of Hearing (5:11-14)
 - 2. Need for Maturity (6:1-8)
 - 3. Exhortation to Maturity (6:9-20)
 - D. Christ is Superior in His Priestly Order (7:1-28)
 - 1. Description of Melchizedek (7:1-3)
 - 2. Superiority of Melchizedek (7:4-10)
 - 3. Imperfection of Aaronic Priesthood (7:11-28)
- II. The Superiority of Christ's Covenant (8:1-13)
 - A. A Better Covenant (8:1-6)
 - B. A New Covenant (8:7-13)
- III. The Superiority of Christ's Sanctuary and Sacrifice (9:1-10:18)
 - A. Old Covenant's Sanctuary and Sacrifice (9:1-10)
 - 1. Old Covenant's Sanctuary (9:1-5)
 - 2. Old Covenant's Sacrifice (9:6-10)
 - B. New Covenant's Sanctuary and Sacrifice (9:11-10:18)
 - 1. New Covenant's Sanctuary (9:11)
 - 2. New Covenant's Sacrifice (9:12-10:18)

Part Three: The Superiority of the Christian's Walk of Faith (10:19-13:25)

- I. Exhortation to Full Assurance of Faith (10:19-11:40)
 - A. Hold Fast the Confession of Faith (10:19-25)
 - B. Fourth Warning: Danger of Shrinking Back (10:26-39)
 - C. Definition of Faith (11:1-3)
 - D. Examples of Faith (11:4-40)
 - 1. Abel (11:4)
 - 2. Enoch (11:5-6)
 - 3. Noah (11:7)
 - 4. Abraham and Sarah (11:8-19)
 - 5. Isaac (11:20)
 - 6. Jacob (11:21)
 - 7. Joseph (11:22)
 - 8. Moses' Parents (11:23)
 - 9. Moses (11:24-29)
 - 10. Joshua and Rahab (11:30-31)
 - 11. Many other Heroes of Faith (11:32-40)
- II. Endurance of Faith (12:1-29)
 - A. Example of Christ's Endurance (12:1-4)
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- III. Exhortation to Love (13:1-17)
 - A. Love in the Social Realm (13:1-6)
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- IV. Conclusion (13:18-25)

* The outline is from the Open Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

How to use this Study Guide

The Text

Each lesson will cover a section of the book of Hebrews. It will contain the text from the English Standard Version of the Bible. You should begin by reading the text and praying for the Holy Spirit to teach you and to help you to be submissive to what He reveals to you from the Word of God.

Key Verses

Each lesson will also have key verses. The key verses from each section should be used for memorization and meditation.

Background Information

Some lessons will have a background information section that will give any information that you require to help answer the questions.

Terms to Identify

Questions to Answer

Then, in the two interactive sections, you will define terms that are used and answer questions over the passage of Scripture. The questions are here only to guide you in your digging into the Word of God more fully. Your own study will take you much deeper into the truths of God's Word than any study guide can.

Your Personal Notes

Each lesson has room after the questions for you to write notes from what you have learned and any questions that you might have about the passage.

For God's Glory Alone

It is my deepest desire that our excellent Lord Jesus will open your eyes to behold wonderful truths from His Word and that you will be a doer of the Word, and not a hearer only. As we are transformed into His image, may He receive more and more glory!

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Lesson 1: Jesus, Name Above All Names
Hebrews 1:1-14

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Hebrews 1:1-14 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 1:8

8 But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ”

Background Information

The book of Hebrews quotes the Old Testament more often than any other New Testament book in order to show how Christ is spoken of all throughout the Scripture. As Jesus said in John 5:39, “search the Scriptures...it is they that bear witness of Me.” Both testaments tell one story, the story of Jesus Christ and the history of His redemption of mankind (also see Hebrews 10:7).

Terms to Identify

1. "our fathers" (v. 1) -
2. prophets (v. 1) -
3. "these last days" (v. 2) -
4. heir (v. 2) -
5. radiance (v. 3) -
6. "exact imprint" (v. 3) -
7. purification (v. 3) -
8. firstborn (v. 6) -
9. anointed (v. 9) -
10. "ministering spirits" (v. 14) -

Questions to Answer

1. List some of the “many ways” that God spoke in times past.
2. How does God speak to us today according to v. 2? What does this mean?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the “heir of all things?”
4. Explain each person of the Trinity's role in creation (the verses listed below will help guide you in this endeavor).

Verses: John 1:3; Eph. 3:4; Gen. 1; Mal. 2:10; Heb. 1:2;
Col. 1:16; Ps. 104:30; Job 26:13

Father -

Son -

Holy Spirit -

5. What does v. 3 mean?
6. How did Jesus make “purification for sins?”
7. Explain the superiority of Jesus' name over every other name.

8. List the ways that Jesus is superior to the angels in your own words.
9. According to v. 14, what is one purpose for which angels were created by God?
10. Give the Old Testament references for the passages quoted in the verses listed in the chart below.

| Verse(s) | <i>Old Testament Reference</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| v. 5 | |
| v. 6 | |
| v. 7 | |
| v. 8-9 | |
| v. 10-12 | |
| v. 13 | |

11. Why would Paul quote so often from the Old Testament?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 2: Neglecting Spiritual Growth

Hebrews 2:1-18

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

5 Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?

7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,

8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

12 saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2:1-18 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 2:18

“For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. ”

Background Information

The high priest was the chief priest. He ministered before the Lord for the people. Aaron was the first high priest. The high priest made offerings before the Lord three times a year for the people (Passover, Pentecost, and Yom Kippur - the day of atonement). He also oversaw the daily sacrifices at the tabernacle. The high priest alone could enter the holy of holies of the temple (a special section that held the ark of the covenant), and then only with the blood of a goat and only once of year, on the day of atonement. He was the go between for sinful man and holy God. He wore special garments, including the ephod, shoulder stones, breastplate, robe, turban, and crown. Each piece of clothing symbolized our Lord Jesus Christ in marvelous detail. You can read more about the high priest in Ex. 25-27, 29 and Lev. 39, among other places in Scripture.

Terms to Identify

1. "pay much closer attention" (v. 1) -
2. escape (v. 3) -
3. salvation (v. 3) -
4. attested (v. 3) -
5. subjection (v. 8) -
6. glory (v. 10) -
7. sanctified (v. 11) -
8. propitiation (v. 17) -
9. high priest (v. 17) -
10. help (v. 18) -

9. What is the purpose of all creation, based on v. 10?
10. What does v. 16 teach about God's relationship to the angels?
11. How did Jesus become "perfect through suffering?"
12. How did Jesus make propitiation for the sins of His people? How was this action like the role of the high priest? How was it unlike the role of the high priest?
13. Since the Scripture teaches that Jesus satisfied the demand for justice for our sin and reconciled us to God, what practical applications from understanding this truth should affect the way that we live our lives?
14. How does Jesus help those who are tempted (1 Cor. 10:13)?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 3: Jesus, Name Above All Names
Hebrews 3:1-18

1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,
2 who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.
3 For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.
4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)
5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,
6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.
7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,
8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,
9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works
10 for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'
11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.' "
12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
14 For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."
16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?
17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?
18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?
19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.
Hebrews 3:1-19 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 3:13

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Background Information

The rebellion that is spoken of in this passage by the Israelites, speaks of the many incidents of their hard-heartedness over the period of their wandering in the wilderness rather than a single incident. The people complained, grumbled, and rebelled many times, even going to the extreme of forming a golden calf to worship.

Terms to Identify

1. apostle (v. 1) -

2. appointed (v. 2) -

3. confidence (v. 6) -

4. "the rebellion" (v. 8) -

5. "my rest" (v. 11) -

6. "unbelieving heart" (v. 12) -

7. exhort (v. 13) -

Questions to Answer

1. Who are the "holy brothers" in v. 1?

2. What is meant by "our confession" in v. 1?

3. Why is Jesus greater than Moses in vs. 3-4?

4. Why is Jesus greater than Moses in vs. 5-6?

5. What Old Testament reference is used in vs. 7-11?

6. What rest is spoken of in v. 11?

7. How can we beware of an evil, unbelieving heart?

8. How often are we to exhort each other according to v. 13?

9. What does it mean to exhort each other and how can we exhort each other?

10. What does it mean to be “hardened by the deceitfulness of sin?”

11. How is the hardening prevented by us exhorting each other?

12. Does v. 14 teach us that if we do not remain faithful that we will be lost? Explain the meaning of this verse in light of other Scripture.

13. How does unbelief keep people out of God's rest?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 4: Let Us Hold Fast Our Confession **Hebrews 4:1-16**

- 1** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.
- 2** For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.
- 3** For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,' " although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.
- 4** For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."
- 5** And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."
- 6** Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,
- 7** again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."
- 8** For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.
- 9** So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,
- 10** for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.
- 11** Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.
- 12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- 13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
- Jesus the Great High Priest
- 14** Since then 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 is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- 16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Hebrews 4:1-16 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Background Information

The word for "help" in verse 16 is an interesting word. When ships in those days were in the middle of a storm, they would come apart and sink. To keep this from happening, the sailors would take large metal bands and place them under the ship and pull them up on the other side. Then, these bands were locked together. They would hold the ship together through the difficult storm. The metal bands were called "helps." When we boldly go before the throne of God, we come as His children and we are crying out to our Father. We will receive grace that will be our help. The Father will not always remove the storms, but His grace will wrap around us and hold us together!

Terms to Identify

1. faith (v. 2) -

2. "seventh day" (v. 4) -

3. "living and active" (v. 12) -

4. "two-edged sword" (v. 12) -

5. sympathize (v. 15) -

6. confidence (v. 16) -

7. grace (v. 16) -

Questions to Answer

1. What does "let us fear" mean in v. 1 (note: v. 13 may help)?

2. What is the relationship between faith and entering God's rest in vs. 2-3?

3. What is the relationship between obedience and entering God's rest in v. 6?

4. Explain vs. 9-10.

5. What does it mean to "strive to enter" in v. 11? Make sure to relate your answer to Ephesians 2:8-9. Is this teaching a works-based salvation?

6. According to v. 12, what are the characteristics of God's Word? What does it do?

7. How does v. 12 tie to v. 13?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 5: A Greater Calling
Hebrews 5:1-10

- 1** For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
 - 2** He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.
 - 3** Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.
 - 4** And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.
 - 5** So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";
 - 6** as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."
 - 7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
 - 8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.
 - 9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,
 - 10** being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.
- Hebrews 5:1-10 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 5:10

being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Background Information

We are introduced to a mysterious character from the Old Testament in these verses, Melchizedek. For the next few lessons, the more you know about Melchizedek, the better. You can find out more information on him by looking at the following passages of Scripture:

| # | Description | Context |
|----|-------------|---|
| 1 | Ge 14:17 | Abram Blessed by Melchizedek |
| 2 | Ge 14:18 | 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) |
| 3 | Ps 110:4 | 4 The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." |
| 4 | Heb 5:6 | 6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." |
| 5 | Heb 5:10 | 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. |
| 6 | Heb 6:20 | 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. |
| 7 | Heb 7:1 | The Priestly Order of Melchizedek |
| 8 | Heb 7:1 | 1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, |
| 9 | Heb 7:10 | 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. |
| 10 | Heb 7:11 | Jesus Compared to Melchizedek |
| 11 | Heb 7:11 | 11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? |
| 12 | Heb 7:15 | 15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, |
| 13 | Heb 7:17 | 17 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." |

Terms to Identify

1. Aaron (v. 4) -

2. Melchizedek (v. 6) -

Questions to Answer

1. What is meant by "on behalf of men" in v. 1?
2. What are the implications for believers today because of this phrase?
3. What is the point of vs. 2-3?
4. Why would no one take the position of High Priest without a calling from God?
5. Who appointed Jesus as the High Priest?
6. Is Melchizedek Christ? Explain your answer.

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 6: Moving on to Maturity **Hebrews 5:11-6:20**

11 About this we have much to say, and it is 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 basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,
13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.
14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.
1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
3 And this we will do if God permits.
4 For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,
5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,
6 if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.
7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.
8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.
9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.
10 For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.
11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,
12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,
14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."
15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.
16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.
17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,
18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.
19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,
20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-20 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 5:14

Background Information

The reformed framework for understanding what God's Word says about salvation is commonly called "the Doctrines of Grace," or Calvinism. It is often explained by the acronym TULIP.

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| T | Total Depravity |
| U | Unconditional Election |
| L | Limited Atonement |
| I | Irresistible Grace |
| P | Perseverance of the Saints |

Our passage in Hebrews 6:4-8 deals with the "P" in TULIP, the perseverance of the saints. This doctrine is sometimes called the "Security of the Believer" or "Once Saved, Always Saved." Whatever you call this doctrine, when it is properly understood, it is beautiful. It saves the believer in Christ from a life of service where you never know if it was enough to keep your salvation and frees the believer up to live a life of holiness based on sheer joy and gratitude!

Note: If you would like more information on the Doctrines of Grace, I would highly recommend R.C. Sproul's fine book, *Grace Unknown: The Heart of Reformed Theology*.

Terms to Identify

1. "dull of hearing" (v. 11) -
2. "basic principles" (v. 12) -
3. "oracles of God" (v. 12) -
4. milk (v. 12) -
5. "solid food" (v. 12) -
6. child (v. 13) -
7. discernment (v. 14) -
8. "elementary doctrine" (v. 1) -
9. maturity (v. 1) -
10. "unchangeable character of his purpose" (v. 17) -
11. curtain (v. 19) -
12. forerunner (v. 20) -

Questions to Answer

1. How do we become dull of hearing?

2. Fill in the characteristics of each type of person from vs. 11-14 in the chart below.

| <i>Children or Babies</i> | <i>Mature</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| | |

3. What are the basic principles in v. 12 (see 6:1-3 for help)?

4. Explain v. 14.

5. What is implied in the command in 6:1, "Let us...go on to maturity?"

6. How does v. 3 fit into the command?

7. What teaching about the process sanctification (becoming more and more holy) can you learn from v. 1-3 (you will combine the answers to the 2 questions above)?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 7: A Better Priesthood **Hebrews 7:1-28**

- 1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- 2** and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.
- 3** He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.
- 4** See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!
- 5** And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.
- 6** But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.
- 7** It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.
- 8** In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.
- 9** One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham,
- 10** for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.
- 11** Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?
- 12** For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.
- 13** For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.
- 14** For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.
- 15** This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,
- 16** who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.
- 17** For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."
- 18** On the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness
- 19** (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is

introduced, through which we draw near to God.

20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath,

21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.' "

22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 7:1-28 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Background Information

The priests had many duties, but primarily, they stood between the people and God as God's official go-betweens. They were appointed to stand before God for others. Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, built with a better priesthood. The order of Melchizedek is far superior to the order of Aaron. Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ. Some believe that Melchizedek is actually the preincarnate Christ appearing Abraham.

Terms to Identify

1. "indestructible life" (v. 16) -

2. "word of the oath" (v. 28) -

3. guarantor (v. 22) -

8. Explain v. 16.

9. What covenant is better, the old or the new? Why?

10. Explain some practical implications for your life from the truth taught in v. 25.

11. How do v. 26-28 tie to the virgin birth of Christ?

12. Why is Jesus' sinlessness so important?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 8: A Better Covenant **Hebrews 8:1-13**

1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,
2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.
3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer.
4 Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.
5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."
6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.
7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.
8 For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.
10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.
12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."
13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
Hebrews 8:1-13 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 8:13

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Background Information

Covenant is a word that is not used much anymore. A covenant is a binding agreement or contract. The word comes from a French word meaning "to agree." Agreement is at the heart of a covenant. Genesis 15 records God making a covenant with Himself. He allows Abraham to partake in this one-sided covenant. It is a picture of the New Covenant that the Lord makes. We are graciously included in this covenant.

Terms to Identify

1. covenant (v. 8) -

2. "copy and shadow" (v. 5) -

3. obsolete (v. 13) -

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 9: The Tabernacle and It's Furnishings **Hebrews 9:1-28**

- 1** Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.
- 2** For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.
- 3** Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,
- 4** having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.
- 5** Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.
- 6** These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties,
- 7** but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.
- 8** By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing
- 9** (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,
- 10** but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.
- 11** But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)
- 12** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.
- 13** For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh,
- 14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
- 15** Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.
- 16** For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.
- 17** For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.
- 18** Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.
- 19** For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the

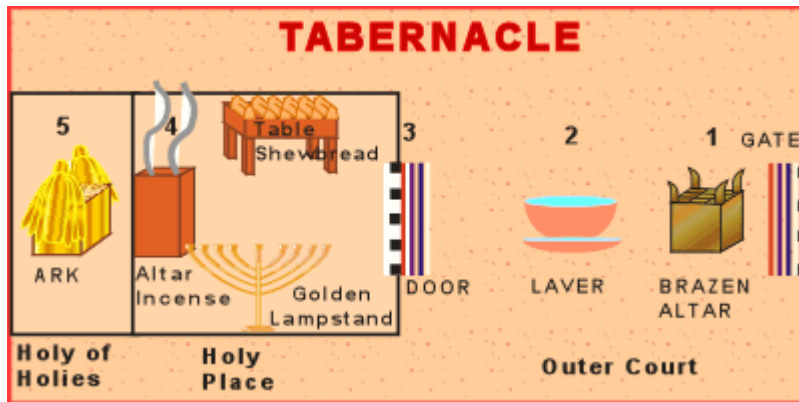
people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,
20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you."
21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship.
22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
23 Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,
26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
Hebrews 9:1-28 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 9:27-28

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Background Information

The tabernacle was a large tent that the Israelites carried from place to place. It was the place where they were to corporately worship and meet with God before there was a temple. You can read about the tabernacle and its furniture in Ex 23-30.



The following pictures are from www.BiblePlaces.com. This is a replica of the tabernacle that is in Israel. It seems to be extremely accurate.



Hebrews: The Superiority of Jesus Christ



Terms to Identify

1. "regulations for worship" (v. 1) -

2. cherubim (v. 5) -

3. "unintentional sins" (v. 7) -

4. mediator (v. 15) -

5. hyssop (v. 19) -

6. "eagerly waiting" (v. 28) -

Questions to Answer

1. What was the tabernacle (tent) and what was its purpose for Israel?

2. What structure replaced the tabernacle for Israel?

3. What are the 3 sections of the tent?

4. Look up the references and list what piece of furniture was in the tabernacle and give a description of the item's construction and purpose. Do not include their prophetic or emblematic purpose (that comes later).

| # | Reference | Title | Description |
|---|--------------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Ex. 25:10-22 | | |
| 2 | Ex. 25:23-20 | | |
| 3 | Ex. 25:31-40 | | |
| 4 | Ex. 27:1-8 | | |
| 5 | Ex. 30:17-21 | | |
| 6 | Ex. 30:1-10 | | |

5. Explain v. 9.

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 10: Warning of Judgment

Hebrews 10:1-39

1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sin?

3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.' "

8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean 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 how to stir up one another to love and good works,
25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.
28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.
29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?
30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." 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 when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,
33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.
34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.
35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.
36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.
37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay;
38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."
39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.
Hebrews 10:1-39 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 10:31

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Background Information

Warning others of pending judgment of God is one of the main parts of telling people the Good News of the gospel. We are called by God to share the news of salvation from sin. We cannot tell the good news without helping people understand the bad news first. The bad news is that we are sinners and God is not. We are born sinners from the moment of our conception. The human race is spiritually dead. We are all born god-haters and self-exalters. We are at war with God. Because of His righteousness, He will judge our sinfulness by sending us to eternal hell. We are in desperate need of righteousness that cannot come from within us, for we have no righteousness to give. It must come from another source. If we place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, He will forgive our sins and give us His perfect righteousness and we can become reconciled to God! We will then be adopted into His family and become His children! What amazingly good news.

There are many techniques for sharing Christ with others. I have had much success using the Roman Road to Salvation. If you memorize these verses, you can share Christ with others.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Romans 3:23 | All people are sinners and are alienated and at war with holy God. |
| Romans 6:23 | The wages for sin is eternal death in hell. God will punish our sin. The alternative is the free gift of God, life through faith in Jesus. |
| Romans 5:8 | God shows His love by dying for the elect. He made a perfect, acceptable sacrifice for the sins of His people. |
| Romans 10:9-10 | If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Believing requires repentance and believing requires dependence. |
| Romans 10:13 | If you will cry out to Him for salvation by asking His forgiveness, He will most certainly save you. |

I try to emphasize our sinfulness and God's holiness. I also share how we are created to bring glory to God, our Creator. We are undone before Him and are His enemies. Because of this, we will spend an eternity in hell. Then, I tell of Christ and His salvation! I never tire of this message. How blessed it is! How grateful I am in every recounting of His amazing love and grace! Finally, I emphasize repentance. Without repentance, you will perish in hell. Then, I invite them to trust in Christ in prayer.

I am not responsible for their reaction or lack of reaction. That is between that person and God. I simply want to share the message and get out of the way. The Spirit of God may call them to life and He may not. I do not know who is elect. I simply share the Word and let the Spirit do His mighty work.

Terms to Identify

1. consciousness (v. 2) -

2. abolishes (v. 9) -

3. "sinning deliberately" (v. 26) -

4. "shrinks back" (v. 38) -

8. According to vs. 23-25, what is one reason that we meet together as a church?

9. How can you personally enhance this, or live it out more, in your church?

10. Is church attendance required for believers? Why or why not?

11. Why should we warn sinners of rejecting Christ?

12. Find some examples in the Scripture of someone warning someone else of impending judgment. Use at least one example where the person heeded the warning and one where the warning was ignored.

13. List below the verses that you would use to witness to someone. Give a brief explanation of what you would say concerning each verse.

14. Should you try to steer conversations with lost people to issues of spiritual significance or not? If not, why not. If so, how might you do this?

15. Should you try to be persuasive when you witness to others? Why or why not?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 11: Heroes of the Faith

Hebrews 11:1-40

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,

18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

- 20** By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.
- 21** By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.
- 22** By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.
- 23** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.
- 24** By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
- 25** choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
- 26** He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
- 27** By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.
- 28** By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.
- 29** By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.
- 30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
- 31** By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.
- 32** And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—
- 33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
- 34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
- 35** Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.
- 36** Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
- 37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—
- 38** of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.
- 39** And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,
- 40** since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:1-40 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Background Information

Our culture has been stripped of heroes. The media finds every little secret piece of information and exploits those tidbits. Yet, in the Word of God, we find fallible people but people worthy of emulation nonetheless. This chapter is sometimes called God's Hall of Faith. We find stories of men and women that will challenge us to be more for Christ than we are.

Terms to Identify

1. Faith (v. 1) -

2. Assurance (v. 1) -

3. Universe (v. 3) -

4. "pleasures of sin" (v. 25) -

Questions to Answer

1. What is faith?
2. Why is faith so hard to explain?
3. What does v. 3 have to do with faith?
4. List all the heroes that are explicitly listed in this chapter.
5. List all the heroes that are not explicitly listed in the chapter, but their story is given.
6. How did Enoch please God in v. 5?
7. How can we please God today?
8. What are the implications of this truth for our lives today?

9. Explain v. 6.

10. According to v. 7 did building that ark provided spiritual salvation for Noah?

11. Explain v. 10.

12. Why did Abraham willingly offer Isaac?

13. How is sin pleasurable? Why is it pleasurable?

14. List some of the persecutions that are listed in the chapter for those of faith.

15. What do we have in v. 40 that gives us an advantage over the saints listed in this chapter?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 12: God's Discipline in Our Lives

Hebrews 12:1-29

- 1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
 - 2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - 3** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
 - 4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
 - 5** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.
 - 6** For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
 - 7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
 - 8** If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
 - 9** Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?
 - 10** For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
 - 11** For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
 - 12** Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,
 - 13** and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.
 - 14** Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
 - 15** See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;
 - 16** that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.
 - 17** For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.
- A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken**
- 18** For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
 - 19** and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no

further messages be spoken to them.

20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."

21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:1-29 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 12:10

For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Background Information

When asked to give the graduation address at the number one prep school in London, Sir Winston Churchill gave them his famous speech, which contained these words: "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never--in nothing, great or small, large or petty--never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy." What great advice this is. God has similarly called believers to never give in and never give up. Do not grow too tired to do good.

We have the cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the faith cheering us on, "Don't give up...keep going." We have the discipline of the Father keeping us on track and we have the example of Jesus to spur us forward. We must keep going in the power of the Lord's might.

Terms to Identify

1. surrounded (v. 1) -

2. endurance (v. 1) -

3. fainthearted (v. 3) -

Questions to Answer

1. Who is the “great cloud of witnesses”?

2. What is meant by “every weight and the sin which clings so closely”?

3. What is the race that is set before us?

4. How does Christ's life and death give us encouragement to keep going without giving up?

5. How does the cloud of witnesses encourage us to keep going?

6. How does God's discipline encourage us to keep going?

7. How do we know if a problem in our life is discipline of the Lord or something else?

8. Why does God discipline us?

9. What are some of the possible outcomes of God's discipline in our lives?

10. What caused Moses to fear in v. 21?

11. What is meant by v. 25?

12. How does fear prompt acceptable worship?

13. What kind of worship is acceptable worship? What kind of worship is not acceptable?

14. How is God like a consuming fire?

15. What should this truth prompt us to do?

Your Personal Notes

Lesson 13: Practical Lessons for Holy Living **Hebrews 13:1-25**

- 1** Let brotherly love continue.
- 2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- 3** Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.
- 4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
- 5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- 6** So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
- 7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
- 8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 9** Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.
- 10** We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat.
- 11** For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.
- 12** So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.
- 13** Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.
- 14** For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.
- 15** Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.
- 16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
- 17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
- 18** Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.
- 19** I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.
- 20** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
- 21** equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

23 You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon.

24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings.

25 Grace be with all of you.

Hebrews 13:1-25 (ESV)

Key Verse(s): 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Background Information

Paul's typical pattern is to give doctrine at the front of a book and to close with practical teachings. He generally likes to show how to live out the theology that he gives. I am glad that ours is a faith that acts. I am glad that He has saved us for the purpose of good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). What a blessing to be able to serve Christ!

Terms to Identify

1. "brotherly love" (v. 1) -

2. imitate (v. 7) -

3. undefiled (v. 4) -

Questions to Answer

1. How can we show brotherly love to each other?
2. Why is it important that we show love to each other?
3. Is hospitality to be shown only to those we know? Why or why not?
4. What are some other verses in the Scripture that talk about hospitality?
5. List the command we are given in this chapter and the verse of the command.

6. Why are there so many commands in the last chapter?

7. What is taught about sex in v. 4?

8. What comes if we do not heed in v. 5?

9. What is taught about Christ in v. 8?

10. How can the heart be strengthened by grace?

11. Explain vs. 10-14.

12. What is a sacrifice of praise?

13. What can we learn about worship and praise in vs. 15-16?

14. How can we obey v. 17?

15. From vs. 18-19, did Paul think prayers could change how soon he came to the Hebrews? How does this sync with God's sovereignty?

16. What is taught about sanctification in vs. 20-21?

17. Where does the ability to obey these commands in this chapter come from? What verse tells you this?

18. What are the final words of this book? Why does Paul close with these words?

Your Personal Notes