

Notes on Hebrews

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Introduction to Hebrews

Author

The author of the book of Hebrews chose not to identify himself. From the second century until the Protestant Reformation the overwhelming consensus of opinion was that Paul was its author. Since Martin Luther tentatively concluded that Apollos wrote Hebrews, scholars have increasingly agreed with his assessment. References to chains, Timothy, and prison seem to point to the apostle (10:34; 13:23). But scholars appeal to the elegant, polished Greek of Hebrews in contrast with the rough Greek of Paul's known letters as evidence that the evangelist known for being "eloquent" and "mighty in the Scriptures" (Acts 18:24) penned Hebrews. I accept the fact the author chose to be anonymous.

Audience

The very earliest Greek manuscripts of Hebrews still in existence contain on the outside of the scroll "To Hebrews" (in Greek of course). This term can be used of Jews who spoke Aramaic, the language of Palestine in the first century, and followed Jewish customs (Acts 6:1), or it can be used of Jews in distinction to Gentiles (Philippians 3:5). Here it seems to be used in the latter sense.

It is apparent from the text of the book that it was written to a specific community of Jews who had been Christians for years. There is no mention in Hebrews of idolatry, eating things sacrificed to idols, or other Gentile issues Paul dealt with in First Corinthians. According to the author, Christ became a man in order to help "the seed of Abraham" (2:16). Hebrews is the sole New Testament book which designates Christ as our High Priest, doing so twelve times (2:17; 3:1; 4:14,15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1,3; 9:11; 10:21). In fact, the high priesthood of Christ is a dominant theme of Hebrews (4:14 - 5:10; 7:1 - 8:5). Extended and detailed argumentation is made concerning Moses (3:1-6), the history of national Israel (3:7 - 4:13), the Old Covenant (8:6-13), the tabernacle (9:1-5), the service of the Jewish priests (9:6-11), and the animal sacrifices of the Law (9:6 - 10:17). The writer exhorts them to leave the camp of Israel (13:12-13).

The audience had heard the testimony of those who were witnesses of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, i.e., apostles (2:3; cf. Acts 1:1-8; 10:39-41). They had been Christians for a lengthy time but had failed to grow (5:12-14). But they had been diligent in ministering to the saints (6:10). They had endured persecution (10:32-33), but none of them had died for their faith (12:4).

There were serious symptoms of their lack of spiritual growth. They were ignorant of the meat of the word (5:12-14) and some neglected the public assemblies of the church (Hebrews 10:24-25). Thus, they were in grave danger of being led astray by false teaching (13:9) and falling away from Christ (3:12-15; 4:1,11,14; 6:4-8; 10:35). The consequences would be terrible indeed (10:26-31).

Thus, the letter was written to Jews who had been Christians for years, had failed to grow in knowledge as they should, and were in danger of leaving Christ and returning to Judaism.

Purpose

The letter is a “word of exhortation” (13:22), the Jewish phrase used to designate and describe the address a Jewish male could make before a synagogue audience (Acts 13:15). The inspired author wrote to believing Jews for the purpose of persuading them to remain faithful to Christ. His repeated plea is “Hold fast” (3:6,14; 4:14; 10:23).

Date

The recipients of the letter had been believers for a rather long time (5:12; 10:32), and the first generation of their leaders (apostles, evangelists, elders) had died (13:7; cf. **New American Standard Bible, English Standard Version**). The Temple in Jerusalem was still standing, and sacrifices were still being offered there (8:4; 10:11; 13:10-11), but soon were to cease (8:13), and the day of the destruction of the Temple was approaching (10:24-25,37). If Paul wrote the letter, it was shortly before his release from prison in Rome (13:23), which would make it about the same date as the apostle’s short letter to Philemon (Philemon 1:1,22). Hebrews was probably written about A.D. 63-64.

From Where Written

It seems to have been written from Rome (13:23-24).

Plan

The inspired writer first advances an argument proving the superiority of Christ over Judaism, then follows the argumentation with an exhortation to remain faithful to Christ. He uses the word “better” thirteen times, primarily to describe the relationship of Christ to the things of the Old Covenant (1:4; 6:9; 7:7,19,22; 8:6 [twice]; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16,35,40; 12:24) and describes Christ as “more excellent” twice (1:4; 8:6). Whereas the things pertaining to the Old Covenant were “ready to vanish away” (8:13), in regard to Christ there is “eternal salvation” (5:9), “eternal judgment” (6:2), “eternal redemption” (9:12), “the eternal Spirit” (9:14), and “the eternal inheritance” (9:15). Only through Christ can we “draw near to God” (7:18-19; 10:19-22). Christ “has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises” (8:6). He also employs the phrase “let us” thirteen times in exhortations following and based on the arguments (4:1,11,14,16; 6:1; 10:22, 23, 24; 12:1 [twice], 28; 13:13,15). Hebrews is the only New Testament book that identifies Christ as our High Priest. Thus, its importance to our understanding of Christ Jesus in the divine plan of salvation is crucial. Jews charged Christianity had no priesthood, but we actually have a priesthood infinitely superior to Judaism (or Catholicism).

Outline

I. The More Excellent Christ - 1:1 - 10:18

A. Better than Angels as Spokesman for God and Savior of Mankind - 1:1 - 2:18

- B. Better than Moses as Builder of God's House - 3:1 - 4:13
- C. Better than Aaron as High Priest - 4:14 - 8:5
- D. Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:6 - 10:18

II. Therefore, Let Us Hold Fast - 10:19 - 13:17

III. Conclusion - 13:18-25

Use

Hebrews has the most detailed study in Scripture of the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ (chapters 1 - 2). It is replete with warnings of the danger of falling away from Christ along with reasons to remain faithful and how to do so. It has the lengthiest discussion of the relationship of the Old Covenant to Christ. And it has the fullest and easiest to understand and apply discussion of the nature of saving faith.

The Word of Exhortation

(The Message of Hebrews)

Text: Hebrews 13:22

Introduction:

- A. With all our technological advances, we are still no different from our forefathers. - Ecclesiastes 1:9-10
- B. Just as our needs are unchanging, the unchanging Christ is the unchanging answer to those needs. - Colossians 2:9-10; Hebrews 13:8
- C. Hebrews is a message of exhortation to Christians to hold fast to Christ.- text

I. The **plan** of Hebrews is “a word of exhortation.” - Hebrews 13:22; cf. Acts 13:15

I. The **theme** of Hebrews is “Christ is better.”

A. explanation

- 1. The law itself was better than any human religion or philosophy.- Romans 7:12
- 2. The key word in the theme of Hebrews is “better” (used 13 times)
- 3. “More excellent” is used twice.

B. development

- 1. Better Messenger than Angels - Hebrews 1:1-4
- 2. Better Builder than Moses - Hebrews 3:1-6
- 3. Better High Priest than Aaron - Hebrews 7:25-27
- 4. Mediator of a Better Covenant. - Hebrews 8:6-7
- 5. Offered Better Sacrifice - Hebrews 9:23; 10:4,14

II. The **plea** of Hebrews is “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.”

A. explanation: The key phrase in the plea is “let us” (also used 13 times).

B. development

- 1. The Hebrews had been Christians for some time. - Hebrews 5:12
- 2. In earlier days they had been zealous for the faith.- Hebrews 10:32-34 (the problem of old, tired Christians)
- 3. But over the years they had failed to grow. - Hebrews 5:12-13
- 4. There were symptoms of this lack of growth.
 - a. ignorance of the meat of the word - Hebrews 5:12-14
 - b. neglect of public worship - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - c. danger of being carried away by “various and strange doctrines” - Hebrews 13:9
- 5. Thus, they were in danger of falling away, giving up their faith in Christ and returning to Judaism.- Hebrews 3:12-13
- 6. How terrible that fall would be! - Hebrews 10:26-31
- 7. Thus, they were exhorted, “Hold fast.” - Hebrews 10:23

Conclusion:

- A. Truly, brethren, how great is the salvation in Christ! - Hebrews 2:3
- B. How tragic are the consequences of falling away! - Hebrews 10:30-31
- C. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering”! - Hebrews 10:23

The More Excellent Son

Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

Introduction:

A. We need two things to be right with God.

1. Knowledge of His will - Psalm 119:33
2. Redemption from sin - Isaiah 6:5

B. We should hear Christ.- Hebrews 2:1

C. We should hear Him because He is:

I. Authorized Spokesman - verses 1-2

A. God spoke in times past by the prophets. - 2 Peter 1:20-21

B. These are the last days. - Isaiah 2:2; Acts 2:16-17

C. He now speaks by his Son. - Matthew 17:1-5; 11:27-30; John 12:48-49

II. Appointed Heir - verse 2

A. By right of inheritance He rules all things. - Psalm 2:7-8

B. Our hope of inheritance is in Him. - Romans 8:16-17

III. Executive Creator - verse 2

A. He was with the Father in the beginning. - John 1:1-2,14

B. Through him the worlds were made. - Hebrews 11:3;
John 1:3; Colossians 1:16

IV. Express Image - verse 3

A. He is the “brightness” of the Father’s “glory.” - John 14:7-9; “... as the radiance of the Sun is to the Sun itself, so is Christ, the Son of God, to the Father” (Milligan. 53) .

B. He is the “express image” (“exact representation” - Arndt & Gingrich. 884, **NASB**); “exact expression” - Mounce. 1309), “exact imprint” (**ESV**) of the Father’s “person” (“nature” - **NASB, ESV**).

1. He has the same nature as the Father. - Philippians 2:5-6; Colossians 2:9

2. He was God in human flesh. - 1 Timothy 3:16V. Powerful Sustainer - verse 3;
Colossians 1:17

VI. Effective Redeemer - verse 3

A. Because of our sins we need purification.- Romans 3:23; 6:23

B. What countless thousands of continuing animal sacrifices could not do, Christ, in the one offering of Himself, has accomplished forever.- Hebrews 10:4,14

VII. Exalted Monarch - verse 3; cf. Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:29-36

Conclusion:

A. Indeed, Christ is the “more excellent” spokesman for God. - Hebrews 1:4

B. Therefore, we should hear him.- Hebrews 2:1-4

So Much Better Than the Angels

Hebrews 1:1-14

Introduction:

- A. If an angel of God really spoke to you, would you listen? - e.g. Judges 13
- B. What if One “so much better than the angels” spoke to you?
 - 1. Mohammed claimed the “*surahs*” that comprise the Qur’an were revealed by an angel.
 - 2. Joseph Smith claimed an angel revealed the Book of Mormon to him.
 - 3. The Old Covenant really was mediated to Moses by angels. - Galatians 3:19; cf. Deuteronomy 33:2; Acts 7:53
 - 4. The New Covenant was given by Christ.- Hebrews 9:13-15
- C. Seven Old Testament quotations prove Christ is “so much better than the angels.” (Quotations are from the LXX.)

I. He is the Son of God. - verse 5

- A. **Psalm 2:7**; Acts 13:32-33; Romans 1:4
- B. **2 Samuel 7:14-16**

II. Angels are commanded to worship Him. - verse 6; **Psalm 97:7** (or Deuteronomy 32:43, LXX)

III. Whereas they are servants, He is God.

- A. They are servants. - verse 7; **Psalm 104:4**
- B. He is God. - verses 8-9; **Psalm 45:6-7**
 - 1. He rules as King. - verse 8
 - 2. He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit. - Luke 4:18-19

IV. He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. - verses 10-12; **Psalm 102:25-27**

V. He rules at the right hand of God, whereas they serve for our salvation. - verses 13-14

- A. He rules. - verse 13; **Psalm 110:1**
- B. They serve. - verse 14

Conclusion:

- A. Christ is so much better than the angels.
 - 1. He is the Son of God. - Hebrews 1:5
 - 2. He is God. - Hebrews 1:8
 - 3. He is God’s authorized spokesman (Prophet). - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - 4. He is our King. - Hebrews 1:8
- B. Therefore, hear Him. - Hebrews 2:1

So Great a Salvation

Text: Hebrews 2:1-4

Introduction:

- A. It has been said that if Christ walked on earth today, He wouldn't be crucified, He would be ignored.
 - B. Why should we pay close attention to the gospel of Christ?
- I. So we don't drift away - verse 1 ("drift away": "*to slide aside from*" - Mounce. 1235); Acts 24:24-25; Hebrews 5:12; 10:24-25; cf. conductor of New York train that derailed

II. Great Messenger - verses 2-3

- A. Word spoken by angels - Galatians 3:19; Deuteronomy 33:2 (lesser to greater)
 - 1. Steadfast - cf. Hebrews 9:17 ("in force")
 - 2. Every transgression and disobedience received a just reward. - Leviticus 10:1-3; Numbers 15:32-36
- B. How shall we escape? - Hebrews 10:28-31
- C. Spoken by the Lord - Hebrews 1:1-4; Luke 19:9-10; Mark 16:16; cf. Mohammed and Joseph Smith
- D. Confirmed to us by those who heard Him - Acts 2:38

III. Great Salvation - 2:3; 1:3; 10:26-27

- A. Greater than saving our health - 1 Timothy 4:8
- B. Greater than saving animals - 1 Corinthians 9:9-10
- C. Greater than saving the planet - 2 Peter 3:7

IV. Great Confirmation - 2:3-4; cf. Mark 16:17-20; cf. Mohammed and Joseph Smith

Conclusion:

- A. Great Messenger, Great Salvation, Great Confirmation
- B. Are you paying careful attention?

Jesus the Son of Man

Text: Hebrews 2:5-18

Introduction:

- A. The greatest stumbling block of the gospel to a Jew was and is the suffering Messiah. - 1 Corinthians 1:23; cf. Pi
- B. In Hebrews one the writer presents Christ as the Son of God - divine, the Prophet of God, our King, greater than angels who ministered the Old Covenant
- C. If Jesus is greater than angels, why did He suffer and die a shameful death as a man?

I. The Importance of the Question

- A. The writer had just exhorted the Hebrews to follow Christ rather than angels. - Hebrews 2:1
- B. He had done this on the basis that Christ is greater than angels. - Hebrews 1:4
- C. But angels are greater than men. - Psalm 8:4-5
- D. And Christ suffered and died as a man. - Mark 8:31

II. The Answer

- A. Jesus' suffering as a man restores man's lost dominion. - Hebrews 2:5-9
 1. The "world to come" is the kingdom of Christ, now a reality on earth but completed in the future in heaven. - Hebrews 2:5; 6:4-5; Colossians 1:13; Acts 14:21-22; Romans 4:13
 2. Man rather than angels was given rule over all. - Hebrews 2:6-8a; Psalm 8:3-6; Genesis 1:26-28
 3. Man lost this dominion through sin. - Hebrews 2:8; Genesis 3:16-19,22-24
 4. Through Jesus' suffering as a man, our lost dominion is restored. - Hebrews 2:9
- B. Jesus had to become a man in order that (7 reasons)
 1. He could die for us. - Hebrews 2:9b
 2. He might be perfected as Savior. - Hebrews 2:10
 - a. "captain": "founder" (ESV), "author" (NASB), "someone who begins something in order that others may enter into it" (King. 96; quoting Barclay. 18), cf. Acts 3:14-15; 5:31
 - b. "perfect": "*advance... to final completeness of character*" (Mounce. 289).
 3. the sanctified and the Sanctifier might be one (He sanctified His people by becoming one with them in their humanity" - King. 97). - Hebrews 2:11-13; Psalm 22:22; Isaiah 8:17-18
 4. Through death He might destroy him who had the power of death. - Hebrews 2:14-15
 - a. "flesh and blood" - Matthew 16:17
 - b. "him who had the power of death"- Matthew 12:29
 - c. "fear of death ... subject to bondage" - 1 Corinthians 15:55; Philippians 1:21
 5. He might give aid to the seed of Abraham. - verse 16; Galatians 3:28-29
 6. He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest (first mention of the High Priesthood of Christ in the New Testament) - verse 17
 7. He might aid those who are tempted. - verse 18

Conclusion:

- A. Indeed Jesus is the Son of God, divine, better than angels, God's Prophet and our King.
- B. But He is also the Son of man, human; He became a little lower than the angels so He could be our Savior and High Priest.
- C. We should both hear Him and come to Him for salvation.

Worthy of More Glory Than Moses

Text: Hebrews 3:1-6

Introduction:

- A. The danger of turning back to old inferior ways faces all Christians.
- B. The author of Hebrews was trying to convince Hebrew Christians not to leave Christ for Moses.
- C. We should not forsake Christ for Moses, because Christ is better than Moses as a builder of God's house.

I. Call to Consider - verse 1

A. those called

- 1. "holy brethren - Hebrews 2:11
- 2. "partakers of the heavenly calling"
 - a. "partakers": "sharing or participating in"(Arndt & Gingrich. 516)
 - b. "calling": "means properly a call, a summons, an invitation; and hence by metonymy it means also the state or condition into which anyone is called" (Milligan. 111) - cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - c. "heavenly": "what pertains to, or is in, heaven" (Vine. 2:209)
 - (1) in origin - Galatians 1:11-12
 - (2) in nature - Hebrews 12:22
 - (3) in purpose - Hebrews 9:15; 11:16; Genesis 12:7

B. to "consider": "fix one's eyes or mind upon" (Thayer, 334)

- 1. "the Apostle": "a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders" (Thayer. 68)
 - a. Moses was God's apostle of the Old Testament. - Exodus 3:10-15
 - b. Christ is God's apostle of the New Testament. - Malachi 3:1; 1 John 4:14; John 6:38
- 2. High Priest (to be discussed later)
- 3. "Apostle" and "High Priest" summarizes chapters one and two and introduces contrast with Moses and Aaron.
- 4. "confession" - Romans 10:8-9
 - a. acknowledgment of fact: basis of Christ's house - Matthew 16:16-18
 - b. implies submission to Christ - Philippians 2:9-11

II. Consideration - verses 2-6

A. Both Christ and Moses were faithful. - verse 2; Exodus 40:16; Numbers 12:6-8; John 17:4

- 1. "faithful": "trustworthy... dependable" (Arndt & Gingrich. 670)
- 2. "appointed": "to make" (Vine. 1:69); cf. Acts 2:36
- 3. "house": "'the members of a household or family"(Vine2. 236)
 - a. The house Moses was over was the church in the wilderness - Acts 7:38
 - b. The house Christ is over is His own church. - verse 6; 1 Timothy 3:14-15

B. But Christ is greater than Moses.

1. Because the builder of the house has more honor than the house. - verses 3-4
 - a. Moses was a servant in the house of God.
 - b. But Christ was the builder even of that house.- verse 4; cf. Psalm 127:1; Hebrews 1:8
2. Because Moses was a servant in the house, where as Christ is the Son over the house.- verses 5-6; cf. Numbers 12:7
3. This is the first time in Hebrews Jesus is identified as Christ. - verse 6

III. Conclusion from Consideration- verse 6

- A. What an honor, to be part of the Son's house! - verse 6
- B. But, if we are to eternally have this honor, we must "hold fast." - verse 6
 1. "confidence": "free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance" (Thayer. 491)
 2. "rejoicing": "that of which one glories or can glory, matter or ground of glorying" (Ibid. 342)

Conclusion:

- A. As great as Moses was, Christ is greater. - Hebrews 3:3
- B. Thus, none should leave Christ for Moses.
- C. Even more so, we should not leave Christ for any human religion or temptation.- Hebrews 3:6
- D. Invitation

Do Not Harden Your Hearts

Text: Hebrews 3:7-19

Introduction:

- A. The Titanic was lost with over 1500 lives because of a false sense of security.
- B. A false sense of security can cause Christians to be lost.
- C. What is the danger facing Christians?

I. Warning- verses 7-8

- A. objects of warning - Hebrews 3:1,6,12
- B. source of warning - Hebrews 3:7; Psalm 95:7-11; 2 Peter 1:19-21
- C. urgency of the warning - Hebrews 3:7; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Acts 16:33
- D. danger - Hebrews 3:8,13,15

II. Example - verses 8-11; Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-13; 14:28-29; Deuteronomy 1:34-35

III. Exhortation - verses 12-19

- A. danger: unbelief - verse 12
 - 1. Disbelievers can choose to believe. - Revelation 22:17
 - 2. Believers can choose to disbelieve.- Exodus 14:31; Hebrews 3:19
- B. preventive: daily exhortation - verse 13
- C. cause: deceitfulness of sin - verse 13
- D. reason to be faithful: be made partakers of Christ - verse 14; Ephesians 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:10
- E. proof of unbelief:
 - 1. refusal to hear God's word - verses 15-16
 - 2. disobedience to God - verses 17-19

Conclusion:

- A. Six hundred thousand corpses in the wilderness are unanswerable proof of the possibility of apostasy. - Hebrews 3:17
- B. Therefore, "Beware, brethren."- Hebrews 3:12

A Rest to the People of God

Text: Hebrews 4:1-13

Introduction:

- B. The promise of rest from weary toil gives us determination for renewed effort.- e.g.,
Scouts on hike
 - C. We have the promise of a blessed rest. - Hebrews 4:9
 - D. What is the significance of our rest?
- I. What is our rest? (“rest” (“*katapausis*”) - 8 times in verses 1-11)
- A. God entered his rest on the seventh day. - Hebrews 4:3-4; Genesis 2:2-3
 - B. That generation of Israel failed to enter their rest. - Hebrews 4:5; Psalm 95:10-11; Numbers 14:28-29
 - C. But our rest remains.- Hebrews 4:6-9
 - 1. It is not the seventh day.
 - a. not a day to **keep**
 - b. something to be **entered** - Hebrews 4:1,3,6,10-11
 - 2. It is not physical Canaan. - Hebrews 4:6-8
 - 3. It is a “Sabbath” (“*sabbatismos*” - “Sabbath rest,” **NASB**). - Hebrews 4:9
 - 4. It is entering into God’s rest. - Hebrews 4:10; 11:16
- II. What should we do in view of this rest?
- A. We should fear.- Hebrews 4:1
 - 1. If the Christian has reason to fear coming short of his rest, there is danger the Christian could come short of his rest.
 - 2. the causes of coming short
 - a. unbelief - Hebrews 4:2
 - b. disobedience - Hebrews 4:6,11
 - B. We should labor. - Hebrews 4:11
- III. Why should we fear and labor?- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Conclusion:
- A. If we will continue till set of sun, a blessed rest awaits. - Hebrews 4:9
 - B. Let us fear, lest we come short.- Hebrews 4:1
 - C. Let us labor, that we might enter.- Hebrews 4:11

A Great High Priest

Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

Introduction:

- A. To come into the presence of God is a terrifying thought. - cf. Exodus 19:10-19; 20:18-19
- B. The priesthood arose out of man's needs.
 - 1. We have sin. - Romans 3:23
 - 2. We need one to intercede for us in the presence of God. - Isaiah 59:1-2
- C. What does the high priesthood of Christ mean for us?

I. the High Priest

- A. Melchizedek is the first to be designated a priest.- Genesis 14:18
- B. When Israel became a nation, the priesthood was conferred upon Aaron and his sons.- Exodus 28:1; 29:9
- C. Aaron and his selected heirs were the high priests.- Leviticus 8:12; 21:10; Exodus 29:29-30
- D. The chief function of the high priest was to make atonement for the sins of the people. - Leviticus 16:15-19
- E. Christ alone is our high priest now.- Hebrews 4:14
- F. Every Christian is a priest.- 1 Peter 2:9-10

II. Our High Priest

- A. Great (proven in chapter one) - Hebrews 4:14; 1:1-4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 8:1
- B. Sympathetic (proven in chapter two) - Hebrews 4:15; 2:17-18

III. Let us therefore:

- A. hold fast our confession.- Hebrews 4:14; cf. 3:6,14; 1 John 4:2-3,15
- B. come boldly ("boldly": "*courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness*" - Arndt & Gingrich. 636) to the throne of grace.- Hebrews 4:16; cf. Exodus 25:17-22; Leviticus 16:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Conclusion:

- A. We have a great and sympathetic high priest.-
- B. Let us therefore:
 - 1. Hold fast our confession.
 - 2. Come boldly to the throne of grace.
- C. Invitation

Called by God as High Priest

Text: Hebrews 5:1-10

Introduction:

- A. It is a terrible sin to usurp a divine office. - Numbers 16 :1-40
- B. The inspired writer claims for Jesus the exalted office of High Priest.- Hebrews 5:10
- C. How is Jesus qualified to be our High Priest?

I. A qualified high priest must meet certain requirements. - Hebrews 5:1-4

- A. He must be taken from among men. - verse 1; Exodus 28:1
 - 1. He represents men to God. - verse 1
 - 2. He offers “gifts and sacrifices”* for sins. - verse 1
- B. He must have compassion on the people. - Hebrews 5:2-3; cf. Exodus 32:1-5; Numbers 12:1-2; 20:1-12; Leviticus 16:6
 - 1. His compassion is for the “those who are ignorant and going astray” (“ignorant and misguided” - **NASB**); Numbers 15:28
 - 2. There was no forgiveness for rebellious sins. - Numbers 15:30-31
- C. He must be called by God.- Hebrews 5:4; cf. Numbers 16:1 - 18:7

II. Christ meets these qualifications.- Hebrews 5:5-10

- A. He was called by God.- Hebrews 5:5-6; cf. John 8:54; Psalm 2:7; 110:4
- B. He is compassionate.- Hebrews 5:7-9
 - 1. By learning obedience unto suffering, he was preeminently qualified to be compassionate.- verses 7-8; cf. Matthew 26:36-45; Luke 22:43-44
 - 2. He was thus perfected as Savior and High Priest. - verse 9
 - 3. He saves and intercedes for those who obey him. - verse 9

Conclusion:

- A. Thus, Christ is “called by God as High Priest.” - Hebrews 5:10
- B. If you will obey him, He will save you and intercede for you. - Hebrews 5:8-9

* “When... the words are used together as here, the distinction between them is that which generally holds in Classical Greek. **Sacrifices** (*thusias*) in that context is never used except to refer to ‘slain beasts’ and thus to ‘blood offerings,’ and **gifts** (*dora*) connotes ‘meal offerings.’” (Daniel H. King, **Truth Commentaries: The Book of Hebrews**. 149).

Dull of Hearing

Text: Hebrews 5:9-14

Introduction:

- A. A teacher asked her young Bible class who made the walls of Jericho fall down. A little boy answered, "I didn't do it, teacher!" She thought that was funny and told a deacon. He replied, "His family are good people, and I think he's telling the truth." Astonished, she then told an elder, who replied, "Let's not cause any trouble. Tell us how much it costs, and we'll get it fixed."
- B. There are many members of the church who should be mature Bible students but are only spiritual babes.- text
- C. The purpose of this lesson is to encourage us to become mature students of Scripture.

I. What causes a long-time disciple to be in knowledge a babe?

- A. A child should grow.- Hebrews 5:12
- B. But some are "dull of hearing." - Hebrews 5:11
- C. Why are some dull of hearing?
 - 1. indifference - 1 Peter 2:2
 - 2. misplaced priorities - Luke 8:14
 - 3. hardness of heart - Matthew 13:13-15

II. What are the characteristics of one whose spiritual growth is retarded?

- A. He is unable to receive difficult truths. - Hebrews 5:11
- B. He is unable to teach others.- Hebrews 5:12; 1 Peter 3:15
- C. He is unable to distinguish between good and evil. - Hebrews 5:13-14
- D. He is unable to detect false teaching. - Ephesians 4:14
- E. He does not appreciate plain preaching of the truth.- 2 Timothy 4:3-4

III. What dangers does the immature disciple face?

- A. letting slip that which he has already learned - Hebrews 2:1-3
- B. falling away - Hebrews 6:1-6

IV. What problems do these babes cause for others?

- A. They are the source of most of the problems in the local church. - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
- B. Their attitude affects others around them. - 1 Corinthians 5:6

V. How can these babes become mature?

- A. proper food - 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 6:1
- B. proper exercise - Hebrews 5:14

Conclusion:

- A. Were Dan and Beersheba husband and wife or brother and sister?
- B. We must all strive to grow to maturity. - Hebrews 6:1
- C. So let us diligently study God's Word. - 1 Peter 2:2

On to Perfection

Text: Hebrews 5:1 - 6:3

Introduction:

- A. Often, when confronted with a sin, one whines, “Well, no one’s perfect.”
- B. To the contrary, we all have the obligation to become perfect. - Hebrews 6:1
- C. How can we “go on to perfection”?

I. Perfection is an attainable goal.

- A. Patriarchal Age
 - 1. Noah - Genesis 6:9
 - 2. Job - Job 1:1,8; 2:3
- B. Mosaic Age
 - 1. Asa - 1 Kings 15:14
 - 2. rich young ruler - Matthew 19:16-21
- C. New Testament Age - 1 Peter 5:10

II. How may we be perfect?

- A. Not by Sinless Lives- Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10; cf. Genesis 9:20-21
- B. But by:
 - 1. sincere, undivided loyalty - 1 Chronicles 29:9
 - 2. all our sins being forgiven - Hebrews 10:14
 - a. by the sacrifice of Christ - Ibid
 - b. by baptism - Ephesians 5:25-27
 - c. by repentance, confession, and prayer - Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9
 - 3. spiritual maturity - Hebrews 6:1
 - a. able to discern good and evil - Hebrews 5:14
 - b. complete, God-like character - Matthew 5:48; Luke 6:40; Ephesians 4:13
 - (1) study - Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3; Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:34
 - (2) love - Colossians 3:14; 1 John 4:17
 - (3) obedience- Hebrews 13:20-21; James 2: 22
 - (4) striving for heaven - Philippians 3:12-16 (“The perfect Christian realizes he is not perfect” (Robert Welch, **The Christian and Sin**, 125).
 - (5) being conformed to the will of God - Colossians 4:12
 - (6) suffering - 1 Peter 5:10
 - (7) patience - James 1:2-4

Conclusion:

- A. Are you perfect? - 2 Corinthians 13:11
- B. Let us “go on to perfection.” - Hebrews 6:1

The Elementary Principles of Christ

Text: Hebrews 6:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Children must learn the alphabet, but, once they do so, they should go on to higher learning.
- B. So it is with “the elementary principles of Christ.” - Hebrews 6:1; 5:12
- C. What are “the elementary principles of Christ”?

I. The elementary principles the author enumerates

- A. Are things shared by Jews and Christians, so a Jewish Christian relapsing into Judaism might still hold to a Jewish form of these.
- B. Are divided into three pairs:
 - 1. Relationship to God: repentance and faith
 - 2. Relationship to the church: baptisms and laying on of hands
 - 3. Relationship to our hope: resurrection from the dead and eternal judgment

II. The elementary principles

A. Repentance and Faith

- 1. repentance from dead works
 - a. Does repentance come before faith?
 - (1) Jews had to repent toward God to believe the gospel. - Mark 1:14-15
 - (2) Gentiles had to repent toward God to believe in Christ. - Acts 20:21
 - (3) What is mentioned first does not necessarily come first in time. - Acts 5:30
 - (4) How can one repent toward God if he does not believe in God? - Romans 2:4
 - (5) What is the gospel order?- Acts 2:36-38
 - b. What is “repentance”?
 - (1) not sorrow - 2 Corinthians 7:10
 - (2) not reformation of life - Luke 3:8-14
 - (3) a change of will- Matthew 21:28-29
 - c. From dead works - verse 1; cf. 9:14; Romans 6:23
 - d. Is repentance essential? - Acts 3:19; 8:22
- 2. faith toward God - Habakkuk 2:4
 - a. What is faith? - Hebrews 11:1,6
 - b. Is faith essential? - Hebrews 11:6
 - c. Does faith toward God include faith in Christ? - Hebrews 1:1-2; John 5:22-23; 12:44; 14:1
 - d. Will faith only save? - James 2:24

B. Baptisms and Laying on of Hands

- 1. baptisms (“washings”- **NASB, ESV**) - Mark 7:4; Leviticus 15:27; Hebrews 9:10
 - a. There are several Bible baptisms.
 - (1) unto Moses - 1 Corinthians 10:2
 - (2) washings of the law - Leviticus 15:27
 - (3) John’s baptism - Mark 1:4
 - (4) baptism of Jesus’ suffering - Matthew 20:20-23

- (5) baptism with the Holy Spirit - Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:1-5; 2:1-4
- (6) baptism of fire - Matthew 3:11-12
- b. There is but one baptism now.- Ephesians 4:5
 - (1) It is by the authority of Jesus Christ. - Acts 2:38
 - (2) It is in water. - Acts 10:44-48
 - (3) It is a burial. - Romans 6:3,4
 - (4) It is for penitent believers. - Acts 2:36-38
 - (5) It is for the remission of sins. - Acts 2:38
- 2. laying on of hands
 - a. impart spiritual gifts (work of Holy Spirit) - Acts 8:17
 - (1) This power was limited to the apostles. - Acts 8:14-17
 - (2) The spiritual gifts ceased when the New Testament was completed. - 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
 - b. heal the sick, as a spiritual gift - Acts 28:8
 - c. appoint men to serve (offices of church) - Acts 6:3-6
 - d. show fellowship and approval - Acts 13:2-3
- C. Resurrection of the Dead and Eternal Judgment
 - 1. resurrection of the dead - Job 19:26-27; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; John 5:28-29
 - a. denied by Sadducees - Matthew 22:23
 - b. denied by pagan philosophers - Acts 17:32
 - 2. eternal judgment - Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46
 - a. All shall be judged. - Matthew 25:31-32; 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - b. Christ will be the judge. - John 5:22
 - c. His word will be the standard. - John 12:48

III. And this we will do if God permits. - Hebrews 6:3; James 4:13-15; John 15:5

Conclusion:

- A. To be saved, we must believe and follow these principles. - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
- B. To be mature, we must build on this foundation. - Hebrews 6:1

Impossible to Renew

Introduction:

- A. What a tragic plight when the doctors say, “We can do no more; death is inevitable.”
- B. The Great Physician warns that some patients are terminal. - Hebrews 6:4-8
- C. What is the plight of one who falls away from Christ?

I. Past Condition - Hebrews 6:4-5

- A. “were once enlightened”: said only of true followers of Christ - cf. John 8:12; Hebrews 10:32 (**NASB**)
- B. “have tasted the heavenly gift”
 - 1. tasted - Hebrews 2:9
 - 2. heavenly gift - John 6:33; Romans 6:23
- C. “have become partakers of the Holy Spirit” - Acts 5:32
- D. “have tasted the good word of God” - James 1:21
- E. “the powers of the age to come”
 - 1. powers - Hebrews 2:2-4
 - 2. age to come - Hebrews 2:5-9

II. Present Condition - Hebrews 6:6

- A. “If they fall away” (“and then fell away” - **ASV**; “and then have fallen away” - **NASB**)
 - 1. lose one’s faith - Hebrews 3:12; cf. verse 1
 - 2. become unfaithful - Hebrews 10:26-27 (“if we go on sinning willfully” - **NASB**)
 - 3. leave the faith - Hebrews 10:28-31
- B. “they crucify again for themselves the Son of God” - cf. Matthew 27:15-26
- C. “put Him to an open shame” - cf. Matthew 27:27-31,39-44

III. Plight: Impossible to Renew - Hebrews 6:4-6

- A. This does not mean a fallen sinner cannot return to the Lord. - Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9
- B. But one can become so hardened of heart it is impossible to reach him. - cf. Acts 28:24-27; e.g. difference between stumbling and falling
- C. Such an apostate is “near to being cursed.” - Hebrews 6:7-8

Conclusion:

- A. What a dreadful plight - beyond the hope of salvation!
- B. Christian, do not slip away from Christ. - Hebrews 3:12
- C. Sinner, repent before your heart becomes too hardened to respond.

The Anchor of the Soul

Text: Hebrews 6:19-20

Introduction:

- A. Tell of Brad Justice in Mena, who was a Baptist because of “once-saved, always-saved” doctrine.
- B. Life without hope is unbearable. - 1 Corinthians 15:19; e.g. “All hope abandon, ye who enter here” (Dante, **The Divine Comedy**. Hell. Canto iii. Line 9). Bastille
- C. How can we live in hope?

I. What is hope?

- A. definition: “the happy anticipation of good” (Vine: 2:232); i.e., desire + expectation - cf. Hebrews 6:11
- B. object: something not presently possessed - Romans 8:24-25
- C. basis: faith - Hebrews 11:1
 - 1. in God’s Word - Romans 10:17; Titus 1:2
 - 2. in Jesus’ resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:20

II. What is the object of our hope? - 1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 4:4

III. How can we have this hope?

- A. Human Means: Things That Accompany Salvation - Hebrews 6:9-12
- B. Divine Basis
 - 1. Christ - 1 Timothy 1:1
 - 2. Faithfulness of God - Hebrews 6:13-20; Genesis 22:1-18; Galatians 3:26-29

Conclusion:

- A. I have the “happy anticipation” of a home in heaven. - cf. Deuteronomy 34:1-7
- B. Will you come go with me? - Numbers 10:29

A High Priest After the Order of Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1 - 28

Introduction:

- A. Everyone wants to be a part of the best. - Bryan Vinson said, if he could be anyone else, it would be Harold Sharp. He had the best of everything.
- B. The high priesthood of Christ is the central theme of the book of Hebrews. - 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:9-11; 8:1-2
- C. Hebrews seven is the heart of Hebrews, in that its theme is that Christ is better than Aaron as High Priest.

I. Christ is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. - 6:20 - 7:3

- A. Melchizedek was both king and priest.- verses 1-2; Genesis 14:17-20
 - 1. Melchizedek is the first priest mentioned in the Bible.
 - 2. Melchizedek (“king of righteousness”) - cf. Jeremiah 23:5
 - 3. King of Salem (“king of peace”) - cf. Isaiah 9:6-7
 - 4. Salem = Jerusalem - Psalm 76:2; Judges 1:21; 19:10; 2 Samuel 5:6-9
- B. Melchizedek stands alone in his office.- verse 3

II. Christ is a better High Priest because:

- A. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. - verses 4-6; cf. Matthew 22:41-46
- B. Melchizedek blessed Abraham. - verses 6-7
- C. Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek in Abraham.- verses 9-10; Genesis 12:2; Numbers 18:21-28
- D. Perfection is through the priesthood of Christ. - verses 11-19
 - 1. If God’s purpose could have been accomplished by the law, it would have remained. - verse 11; cf. Galatians 2:21; 3:21
 - a. “perfection”- “*completeness* of operation and effect” (Mounce. 1289)
 - b. The purpose of the Law for Israel was to make Israel holy to the Lord. - Exodus 19:6; Leviticus 19:2
 - c. This was accomplished through atonement of blood by the high priest. - Leviticus 16:30-34; 17:11
 - d. But the sacrifices of the law could not cleanse the conscience of sin. - Hebrews 9:9; 10:1,4
 - e. The high priesthood belonged to Aaron and his descendants. - Exodus 28:1; 29:9; Numbers 3:10; Ezra 2:62
 - f. Thus, the Aaronic priesthood is the foundation of the law of Moses - No priesthood of the lineage of Aaron, no law of Moses.
 - 2. But, since Jesus is a priest of the tribe of Judah, there had to be a change of the law.- verses 12-14
 - 3. But, Christ is a priest by divine decree.- verses 15-17; cf. Psalm 110:4 (This passage is the basis of the argument of Hebrews chapter 7.)
 - 4. Therefore, the law was annulled. - verses 18-19
 - a. “weakness”
 - b. “unprofitableness” - “uselessness” (NASB, ESV)

- E. Christ was made high priest by an oath. - verse 20-22; cf. , Exodus 28:1; 29:1-37; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 6:17-18
- F. The high priesthood of Christ is unchangeable. - Hebrews 7:23-25
 - 1. “Josephus provides us with the detail that eighty-three high priests served ... from the time of Aaron to the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 (*Antiquities of the Jews* 20.227 [x.1])” (Daniel H. King, **The Book of Hebrews**. 231). - cf. verse 23; Exodus 29:29-30; Numbers 20:23-28
 - 2. The perpetual high priesthood of Christ is the ground of our hope. - verses 24-25
 - a. So long as Christ intercedes for us, we can never be lost.- verse 25; cf. John 17:24; Romans 8:34
 - b. But his intercession is conditional. - 1 John 1:7 - 2:2
- G. Christ is a perfect high priest. - Hebrews 7:26-28
 - 1. They had sins, but he has none. - verse 26; cf. Leviticus 16:11; Hebrews 9:7; 4:15
 - 2. They offered daily, but his one offering is good for ever.- verse 27; cf. Leviticus 4:3-21; Hebrews 8:3; 9:12
 - 3. Thus, He is a perfect high priest. - Hebrews 7:28
 - a. by suffering - 2:10
 - b. by obedience - 5:8-9

The Main Point

Text: Hebrews 8:1-5

Introduction:

- A. People always await the main event. - Johnny Cash show
- B. The main point of Hebrews is the high priesthood of Christ. - Hebrews 8:1; “the chief point” (W.E. Vine, **Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words**. 2:476); “*the crowning or ultimate point*” (William D. Mounce, Mounce’s **Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words**. 1189)
 - 1. High Priest (18 occurrences, 13 direct references to Christ, 5 comparing Old Testament high priest to Christ) - Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:1,5, 10; 6:20; 7:26,27,28; 8:1,3; 9:7, 11, 25; 10:21; 13:11
 - 2. priest (20 occurrences, 16 to Christ or Melchizedek as type of Christ) - 5:6; 7:1, 3, 11, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23; 8:4; 9:6; 10:11
 - 3. priesthood (5 occurrences) - 7:5,11,12,14,24
 - 4. Jews charged Christianity had no priesthood, but we actually have a priesthood far superior to Judaism (or Catholicism).
- C. Division of Book
 - 1. Who is the high priest? - chapters 5-7
 - 2. What is His service? - 9:1 - 10:18
 - 3. Transition - chapter 8

Proposition: The high priesthood of Aaron was but a figure of the high priesthood of Christ.

I. Significance of Proposition

- A. The high priesthood of the lineage of Aaron was temporary, being but a foreshadowing of the real, the high priesthood of Christ. - Hebrews 8:4-5
- B. The law and all that pertained to it, for which the priesthood of Aaron was central and essential, is therefore temporary as well. - Hebrews 8:6

I. Christ, our high priest, having accomplished His sacrifice, is now seated next to God in heaven. - verse 1; “minister” (*leitourgos*) [KJV, ASV, NASB, ESV] - cf. Isaiah 61:6

- A. “right hand”: place of highest honor - cf. 1:3,13
- B. “throne of the Majesty in the heavens”: Jewish indirect reference to God out of reverence - cf. 10:12
- C. He thus has all authority. - Matthew 28:18

II. The high priesthood of Aaron was but a figure of the high priesthood of Christ. - Hebrews 8:1-5

- A. Our high priest is on his throne.- verse 1; cf. Acts 2:29-36
- B. His ministry is in heaven. - verse 1; cf. Hebrews 9:24
- C. His ministry is of the true tabernacle, the church. - verse 2; cf. Leviticus 16:32-33
 - 1. The heavenly is the true, the real. - Hebrews 9:24

2. The church pertains to this realm. - Hebrews 12:22-24; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5
3. It was pitched by the Lord, not man. - Matthew 16:18
- E. The Aaronic priesthood was but a shadow of the priesthood of Christ. - verses 3-5;
“copy and shadow” = “shadowy outline” (Lightfoot.155)
 1. A priest offers sacrifices for sins. - cf. Hebrews 5:1; 8:3
 2. Christ offered Himself - Hebrews 7:27; 1 John 2:1-2
- F. As the tabernacle of old was built by divine pattern, so is the church.- verse 5; cf. Exodus 25:8,9,40; 39:43; 40:34,35; 2 Timothy 1:13

Conclusion:

- A. Indeed, we have a great high priest. - Hebrews 7:26; 8:1
- B. He is able to save us “to the uttermost.” - Hebrews 7:25
- C. Let us, therefore, hold fast. - Hebrews 4:14

A Better Covenant

Text: Hebrews 8:6-13

Introduction:

- A. If a man can prove to me he has a superior product, I am interested.
- B. The New Covenant is better than the Old. - text
 - 1. The Old Covenant was God's agreement with fleshly Israel at Sinai.- Deuteronomy 5:1-3
 - 2. The New Covenant is God's agreement with all men through Christ.- Mark 16:15-16
- C. How is the New Covenant better than the Old?

I. Better Promises.- verse 6; cf. Hebrews 6:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:25

II. Better Adapted to Our Needs - verses 7-9; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34

- A. The fault of the Old was that it failed to provide for man's faults. - Romans 3:20
- B. National Israel's covenant with God was broken.- verses 8-9; cf. Matthew 21:33-46
- C. The New Covenant is with the Israel of God.
 - 1. Israel and Judah were one after the captivity.- Ezra 1:5; 2:70; Ezekiel 37:15-28
 - 2. A remnant was to be saved. - Joel 2:32; Romans 11:5
 - 3. Not all Israel is of Israel.- Romans 2:28-29
 - 4. The Israel of God is the church.- Galatians 6:15-16; Philippians 3:3

III. Better Basis of Citizenship - verses 10-11

- A. Old Covenant: born, then taught- Genesis 17:9-14; Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- B. New Covenant: taught, then born- John 6:44-45; 1 Peter 1:22-23

IV. Better Forgiveness - verse 12; cf. Hebrews 9:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. The Old has vanished away. - verse 13
- B. Let us serve God under the better.

The Earthly Sanctuary

Hebrews 9:1-10

Introduction:

- A. There are two extremes regarding the Old Covenant:
 - 1. those who ignore it, - e.g., preacher from California in Rogers
 - 2. and those who bind its fleshly regulations. - e.g., David
- B. The basis of the law was the priestly service in the sanctuary. - Hebrews 7:11-12
- C. What was the service of the first covenant like?

I. Two Elements of Worship - verse 1

- A. ordinances of divine service - cf. Leviticus 10:1-3
- B. earthly sanctuary
 - a. “sanctuary” (*“hagios”*): “place of holiness” (**ESV**) - Exodus 25:8
 - b. “earthly” (*kosmikos*): “of this world” (**ASV**)
 - c. in contrast to heavenly - verse 11

II. The Earthly Sanctuary - verses 2-5

- B. first part - verse 2
 - 1. lampstand - Exodus 25:31-39; 35:14; Leviticus 24:1-4
 - 2. the table, and the showbread (“bread of the Presence” [**ESV, ISV**]) - Exodus 25:23-30; 26:35; Leviticus 24:5-9
- C. behind the second veil - verses 3-5; Exodus 26:33-34
 - 1. “the golden censer” (“golden altar of incense” [**NASB, ASV, ESV, ISV**]) - Exodus 30:1-10
 - 2. “ark of the covenant” - Exodus 25:10-15
 - a. “golden pot that had manna” - Exodus 16:32-34
 - b. “Aaron’s rod that budded” - Numbers 17:1-10
 - c. “tablets of the covenant” - Exodus 25:16; 31:18; Deuteronomy 10:1-5; 1 Kings 8:9
 - 3. “cherubim of glory” - Exodus 25:18-20
 - 4. “mercy seat” - Exodus 25:17,21-22
- D. “cannot now speak in detail” - verse 5

III. The Divine Service - verses 6-7

- A. The common priests ministered daily in the holy place.- verse 6
 - 1. offered sacrifices for the people - Leviticus 4:27-28,32; 5:17-18
 - 2. dressed the lamps and burned incense - Exodus 30:7-8; 2 Chronicles 26:18
 - 3. changed the showbread each Sabbath - Leviticus 24:5-9
- B. The high priest alone went into the holy of holies once a year on the Day of Atonement.- verse 7; Leviticus 16

IV. The Significance - verses 8-10

- A. way into the Holiest of All not yet made manifest - verse 8, cf. Verse 24
 - 1. This did not mean there was no forgiveness of sins under the Law. - Psalm 32:1-5
 - 2. But the basis upon which God could unite justice and mercy in the forgiveness of the sinner awaited the revelation of the cross. - Romans 3:21-26; Hebrews 9:15
- B. symbolic for present time - verse 9; "*type, figure ... a symbol (pointing) to the present age*" (Arndt & Gingrich. 617)
- C. cannot make conscience perfect - verse 9
- D. fleshly ordinances - verse 10
- E. temporary - verse 10

Conclusion:

- A. The service of the priests in the tabernacle was inferior to the service of Christ in the church.
- B. The basis of the law was the priestly service in the tabernacle.
- C. Let us therefore look to the cross of Christ, not to the Law of Moses, for justification.

Eternal Redemption

Hebrews 9:11-15

Why is redemption in Christ greater than that under the law?

I. What is redemption?

A. Definition: “*free by paying a ransom*” (W.F. Arndt and F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 484)

B. God redeemed Israel from Egyptian slavery. - Exodus 6:6; 15:13

C. An Israelite sold into slavery could be redeemed by his near kinsman. - Leviticus 25:47-49

D. In Christ we are redeemed from our sins. - Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 6:20

E. God will redeem our mortal bodies. - Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:50-55

II. Christ has redeemed us from sin by the sacrifice of His own blood. - Hebrews 9:11-15

A. made in the greater and more perfect tabernacle - Hebrews 9:11, 24

B. Eternal redemption rather than annual remembrance - Leviticus 16:29-34; Hebrews 9:12, 15, 25-28

C. his own blood rather than goats and calves - Hebrews 9:12; 10:1-4; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Peter 1:17-19; Revelation 5:9

1. goats and calves - Leviticus 16:3,14-15

2. ashes of a heifer - Numbers 19:1-13

D. Cleanses the conscience rather than the flesh - Hebrews 9:13-14

III. How can we obtain that redemption? - Hebrews 10:19-22

The Mediator of the New Covenant

Hebrews 9:15-28

I. Covenant Demands Death. - verse 15

A. “For this reason”: covenant demands death - verses 13-14; Genesis 15:8-21

B. Redemption of transgressions under first covenant - Leviticus 4:13-20; Psalm 32:5; Romans 3:24-26

C. “Called” - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

D. Purpose: “eternal inheritance” - cf. Numbers 34:2; Matthew 19:29

II. Testament Requires Death of Testator - verses 16-17 (“No one is the heir of a living man.”)

III. Even Old Covenant Dedicated with Blood - verses 18-21; Exodus 24:3-8; 12:22

IV. Purification and Remission by Blood. - verse 22; Leviticus 17:11

V. Christ the Perfect Sacrifice - Hebrews 9:23-28

A. The earthly required animal sacrifices; the heavenly demands greater. - verse 23

B. Christ entered heaven itself rather than an earthly sanctuary. - verse 24

C. His one sacrifice is sufficient forever. - verses 25-26; cf. 1:2; 1 Corinthians 10:11

D. He will appear once more, not in reference to sin, but for salvation. - verses 27-28 (verse 28, **ESV**); Isaiah 53:12; 1 Peter 2:24

A Better Sacrifice

Text: Hebrews 10:1-18

Introduction:

- A. Why do you attend church, pray, contribute to the church, take the Lord's Supper, and sing songs of worship?
- B. The point of religion is to go to heaven. - Hebrews 9:7-8
- C. To be in the presence of God in heaven, we must be perfect. - Hebrews 9:9; 10:1; 12:22-23
- D. How can we be perfect?

I. Sacrifices of the Law Insufficient - 10:1-4

- A. The Old Covenant is but a shadow; the New is the very image of the heavenly. - verse 1
- B. Those sacrifices cannot perfect. - verse 1; cf. 9:13-14
- C. Their continual repetition proved their ineffectiveness. - verse 2; cf. Leviticus 4:34-35; 16:15, 20-22
 - 1. Jews observe the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) to be reminded of their sins. - verse 3
 - 2. Christians observe the Lord's Supper to be reminded that Christ took away our sins. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- D. Animal sacrifices cannot take away sins! - verse 4; cf. Romans 3:21-26

II. Sacrifice of Christ Sufficient - Hebrews 10:5-18

- A. Why did Christ come? - 10:5-10
 - 1. He did not come to repeat the sacrifices of the Law. - verses 5-8
 - a. God took no pleasure in animal sacrifices. - verses 5-6; Psalm 40:6-8 (**LXX**)
 - b. God prepared Christ a body. - verse 6; Luke 1:35
 - c. Christ came to fulfill the will of God. - verse 7; John 6:38; Luke 22:41-42
 - d. God took no pleasure in the sacrifices of the Law. - verse 8; Psalm 40:6
 - (1) burnt sacrifices - Leviticus 1:3-4
 - (2) grain offerings - Leviticus 2:1-2
 - (3) peace offerings - Leviticus 3:1-2
 - (4) sin offerings - Leviticus 4-5
 - 2. He came to establish the New Covenant. - verses 8-9
 - 3. By that one sacrifice we are sanctified. - verse 10
- B. His sacrificial work is complete. - 10:11-14
 - 1. The sacrifices of the Levitical priests were never done. - verse 11; Numbers 28:2,16; 29:39
 - 2. But the one offering of Christ completed His sacrificial work. - verses 12-13; 1:3
 - 3. By that one offering we are perfected and sanctified forever. - verse 14
- C. The Holy Spirit testified this would be so. - 10:15-17; Jeremiah 31:33-34
- D. The one offering of Jesus Christ need never be repeated and can never be replaced. - 10:18

Conclusion:

- A. Through the one offering of Jesus Christ we can be sanctified to the service of God and made perfect from sin forever. - Hebrews 10:14
- B. We can thus enter the holiest. - Hebrews 9:7-8
- C. Will you avail yourself of this sacrifice? - Hebrews 10:22

Let Us

Introduction:

- A. Tell about Dad telling the members in Gordon that he didn't think 1 of 10 of them would make it to heaven.
- B. We all face the danger of apostasy.
- C. How can we remain faithful to Christ? - Hebrews 10:19-31

I. "Let us draw near" - Hebrews 10:22

- A. What does it mean to "draw near"? - Hebrews 4:14-16 (**Prayer** the response of **Faith**)
- B. How should we draw near?
 - 1. "true heart"
 - 2. "full assurance of faith" - James 1:6-7
- C. Upon what basis should we draw near?
 - 1. "hearts sprinkled" - Hebrews 9:13-14
 - 2. "bodies washed"

II. "Let us hold fast" - Hebrews 10:23

- A. Hold what? - "the confession of our hope" (**NKJV**) - Hebrews 3:5-6 (**Steadfastness** the response of **Hope**)
- B. Why hold fast? - "for he is faithful that promised"

III. Let us consider one another" - Hebrews 10:24

- A. How do we do this? - Hebrews 10:25 (**Attendance** the response of **Love**)
- B. Why should we do this?
 - a. We show our love for each other. - verse 24
 - b. We are edified. - verse 24
 - c. It is commanded. - verses 24-25

Conclusion:

- A. The way to the holiest is clear for those who heed. - Hebrews 10:19
- B. But terrible punishment awaits backsliders. - Hebrews 10:26-31
- C. Are you doing all you can to remain faithful?

Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence

Hebrews 10:32-39

Introduction:

- A. As other preachers who stand for the truth, my family and I have had trying experiences.
- B. Both churches and congregations can grow cold and indifferent as they grow older and face fewer challenges.
- C. How do the past and the future give us reasons for present faithfulness?

I. Past: Memories - verses 32-34

- A. You were illuminated - verse 32 (“enlightened” - **NASB**, **ESV**); cf. John 8:12
- B. You endured. - verses 32-33; cf. Acts 8:1-4; 14:21-22
- C. You had compassion. - verse 34; cf. Matthew 25:36
- D. You joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods. - verse 34; cf. 1 Peter 4:12-13

II. Present: Exhortations

- A. Do not cast away your confidence (“free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance” - Thayer). - verse 35; cf. Hebrews 3:6; Ephesians 6:16 (“Bring this back or be brought back upon it.”)
- B. You have need of endurance. - verse 36; cf. Titus 1:2
- C. The just shall live by faith. - verses 38; cf. Habakkuk 2:4

III. Future: Promise - verse 36; cf. Titus 1:2

- A. Heaven - verse 34
- B. Reward - verse 35
- C. He Who is coming will come and will not tarry. - verse 37; Habakkuk 2:3; Hebrews 10:25; Luke 21:28,32

Conclusion:

- A. We will fall into one of two categories. - verse 38
- B. Where will you be? - verse 39; cf. Hebrews 6:9

Now Faith Is

Hebrews 11:1-3

Introduction:

A. "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve" (Napoleon Hill, 1937).

Think and Grow Rich).

B. This false statement is simply faith in faith itself.

C. But faith is absolutely essential to salvation. - Hebrews 11:6

D. What is faith?

I. definitions - Hebrews 11:1

A. "substance"

1. "lit. a standing under, support" (W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 1:85)

2. "assurance" (NASB, ESV)

C. "evidence"

1. "proof, proving ... a proving of (or conviction about) unseen things" (W.F. Arndt & F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 248)

2. "conviction" (NASB, ESV)

D. two elements of saving faith - Hebrews 11:6

1. conviction (Thus, we accept what God reveals.)

2. trust (Thus, we obey what God commands in trust He will faithfully reward us.)

II. Faith accepts the unseen as if seen by accepting testimony.

A. Faith begins and ends in the realm of the unseen. - Hebrews 11:3; 2 Corinthians 4:18

B. Because what we believe cannot be scientifically demonstrated doesn't make our faith unreasonable. - e.g., How do you know Columbus discovered America in 1492?

C. Faith is not a blind leap but the honest acceptance of credible evidence.

III. The evidence is especially strong because it is of divine origin. - Romans 3:3-4

A. We know God is from His first and general revelation, the world. - Romans 1:20

B. We know God's will through His second and special revelation, the Bible. - Romans 10:17

IV. Faith is the essential means of our salvation. - Hebrews 11:2,6

V. Faith is the guiding principle of the Christian's life. -

2 Corinthians 5:7

Conclusion:

A. Saving faith will lead you to accept God's word and obey His commands. - Hebrews 11:7

B. Do you have saving faith? - Acts 8:36-39

By Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:3-40

Introduction:

- A. Cooperstown, New York has the Baseball Hall of Fame, Canton, Ohio has the Football Hall of Fame, Cleveland, Ohio has the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, but Hebrews eleven is the Hall of Faith.
 - B. The phrase “by faith” occurs 40 times in the New Testament; 18 of those occurrences are in Hebrews chapter eleven.
 - C. Rather than giving us a theoretical discussion of faith, the inspired writer teaches us the nature of saving faith by calling the roll call of the faithful.
 - D. What is the nature of saving faith?
- I. Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice (Acceptable Worship) - Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:3-5
- A. Why did God accept Abel’s sacrifice and reject Cain’s?
 1. **Not** because He only accepts blood sacrifices - Leviticus chapter 2
 2. **But** because Abel sacrificed “by faith” - Hebrews 11:4; cf. Romans 10:17
 - B. Acceptable worship is authorized by the Lord. - John 4:23-24; 1 John 3:11-12
- II. Enoch did not see death (Walking with God). - Hebrews 11:5
- A. Only two men are said to have “walked with God”: Enoch and Noah. - Genesis 5:22,24; 6:9
 - B. He did not literally walk with God. - Genesis 3:6-8, 22-24
 - C. Rather, he walked:
 1. by faith - 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 5:8-9
 2. and in the light. - 1 John 1:7
 - D. Therefore, he pleased God. - Hebrews 11:5
 - E. Thus, he was one of only two men who never saw death. - Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5; 2 Kings 2:11
- III. Noah prepared an ark. - Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:12-22; 7:1
- A. Noah was saved by grace. - Genesis 6:8
 - B. Noah was saved and righteous by faith. - Hebrews 11:7
 1. God spoke. - Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:13-16
 2. Noah believed. - Hebrews 11:7
 3. Noah obeyed. - Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:22
 4. God saved. - Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 7:1; 1 Peter 3:18-21
 - C. Principles of Saving Faith
 1. Faith obeys God.
 2. Faith obeys all God commands.
 3. Faith does not change the divine pattern.

By Faith Abraham Obeyed

Hebrews 11:8-10; Genesis 11:31 - 12:7; Acts 7:2-5

I. He obeyed when he was called. - Hebrews 11:8;
2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

II. He left his

A. country. - Genesis 12:1; Acts 7:3

B. family. - Genesis 12:1; Acts 7:3

C. and family religion. - Joshua 24:2

III. He did not know where he was going. - Hebrews 11:8; Genesis 12:1,7

IV. He lived as a stranger. - Hebrews 11:9

1. He lived in tents. - Hebrews 11:9; cf. Genesis 12:8

2. He had no possession. - Genesis 23:3-20; 25:7-10

V. He looked for a city. - Hebrews 11:10; 13:14

By Faith Sarah

Hebrews 11:11-12

Introduction:

- A. "I know the Bible says..., but I think...."
- B. Sarah knew what the Lord had said, but she thought.
- C. How is Sarah an example of saving faith?

I. Sarah's Example

- A. The promise to Abraham did not originally mention Sarah. - Genesis 12:2, 7; 15:1-6
- B. Sarah presumed to help God fulfill the promise. - Genesis chapter 16
- C. Even Abraham did not at first believe he and Sarah would have a son. - Genesis chapter 17
 - 1. Abraham laughed in unbelief. - Genesis 17:17-18
 - 2. The child's name would be "Laughter." - Genesis 17:19
- D. Sarah still did not believe (She laughed in unbelief). - Genesis 18:1-12
- E. But Sarah learned to believe. - Genesis 18:13-15; Hebrews 11:11-12
- F. Then she laughed for joy. - Genesis 21:1-6

II. Lessons

- A. Faith takes God at His Word regardless of human experience. - Genesis 18:14; 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Genesis 1:27
- B. Faith does not presume to help God. - Genesis 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-2
"There is now heard from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, one general, if not universal, call for a more efficient organization of our churches" (Alexander Campbell, calling for a missionary society, "Millennial Harbinger," February, 1849, as quoted by Earl I. West, **The Search for the Ancient Order**. 1:167).

Conclusion:

- A. Sarah had to learn to take God at His word. - Genesis 18:14
- B. We too must learn to take God at His word.

These All Died in Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:13-16

Introduction:

- A. Tell of selecting a quote for the tombstone for my parents.
 - B. The greatest commendation of anyone is to say, "He died in faith." - text
 - C. What does it mean to die in faith?
- I. They did not receive the promises in this life. - verse 13; Genesis 12:1-3,7; John 8:56; Galatians 3:16, 26-29
- II. They were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. - verse 13; Genesis 23:1-4; 28:4; 47:9
- A. "strangers": "foreign, alien" (Vine)
 - B. "pilgrim": "*residing in a country not one's own, a sojourner*" (Mounce)
- III. They were seeking a homeland. - verse 14
- A. Not Mesopotamia - verse 15; Genesis 24:1-8; 28:10-15
 - B. They sought the heavenly country. - Hebrews 11:16; 13:14
 - C. So must we. - Philippians 3:13-14
- IV. God is not ashamed to be called their God. - Hebrews 11:16; Exodus 3:6

Conclusion:

- A. Will it be truthfully said of you, "He died in faith"?
- B. Are you living as a stranger and pilgrim on this earth?
- C. Are you seeking the heavenly city?
- D. Is God ashamed to be called your God?

By Faith Abraham Offered Up Isaac

Hebrews 11:17-19

Introduction:

- A. Some people refuse to be baptized or to obey God's commands concerning marriage because those demands seem unreasonable to them.
- B. What if God commanded you to sacrifice your only child?
- C. Do we have the faith of Abraham? - Romans 4:16

I. Abraham's faith endured the ultimate test. - Hebrews 11:17; Genesis 22:1-18

A. "when He was tested"

- 1. God does not tempt (test) us with evil. - James 1:13
(“Tested” in Hebrews 11:17 and “tempted” in James 1:13 are each translated from the same Greek word.)
- 2. Satan entices (tempts) us to evil. - 1 Corinthians 7:5
- 3. The Lord tests our faith by His commands. - Hebrews 11:17

B. “he who had received the promises” - Genesis 12:1-3, 7

C. “offered up his only begotten son”

- 1. He had another son. - Genesis 16:1-4
- 2. But Isaac was the only Son of promise. - Hebrews 11:18; Genesis 17:17-21; 21:8-14
- 3. Abraham did not put His son ahead of obedience to the Lord. - Matthew 10:34-37

D. God asked less of Abraham (and us) than He has done for us. - John 1:18; Matthew 3:17; John 3:16

II. Abraham obeyed though he didn't understand. - Hebrews 11:19; Genesis 22:5

Conclusion:

- A. Do we obey without question or quibble even the most difficult commands?
- B. Do we obey even when we don't understand?
- C. Do we have the faith of Abraham?

By Faith Isaac

Hebrews 11:20

Introduction:

A. Faith looks for unseen things to come. - Hebrews 11:1; 13:14

B. How is Isaac an example of saving faith?

I. The Lord had said the elder would serve the younger. - Genesis 25:20-23

II. But Isaac loved the elder more than the younger. - Genesis 25:24-28

III. Isaac tried to give the blessing to Esau. - Genesis 27:1-4

IV. But his plan was frustrated. - Genesis 27:5-29

V. When he realized he had been fooled, he refused to change the blessing, knowing it was the will of God. - Genesis 27:30-33

VI. Later he reinforced the blessing. - Genesis 28:1-4

Conclusion: Faith

A. Speaks as God directs. - 2 Corinthians 4:13; 1 Peter 4:11

B. Accepts what God says. - Genesis 27:33; 28:3-4

C. Does not change what God says. - Ibid

The Patriarchs and the Promises

Hebrews 11:20-22

Introduction:

- A. Faith looks for unseen things to come. - Hebrews 11:1; 13:14
- B. Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph are each an example of this aspect of faith

I. Isaac Blessed Jacob and Esau. - Hebrews 11:20

- A. The Lord had said the elder would serve the younger. - Genesis 25:20-23
- B. But Isaac loved the elder more than the younger. - Genesis 25:24-28
- C. Isaac tried to give the blessing to Esau. - Genesis 27:1-4
- D. But his plan was frustrated. - Genesis 27:5-29
- E. When he realized he had been fooled, he refused to change the blessing, knowing it was the will of God. - Genesis 27:30-33
- F. Later he reinforced the blessing. - Genesis 28:1-4
- G. Faith
 - 1. Speaks as God directs. - 2 Corinthians 4:13; 1 Peter 4:11
 - 2. Accepts what God says. - Genesis 27:33; 28:3-4
 - 3. Does not change what God says. - Ibid

II. Jacob blessed each of the sons of Joseph. - Hebrews 11:21; Genesis 48:1-20; 47:29-31 (Faith speaks what God says.)

III. Joseph gave instructions concerning his bones. - Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 50:24-26; Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32

- A. Faith accepts the promises of God.
- B. Faith looks beyond power, fame, and fortune to divine promises.

Conclusion:

- A. Faith
 - 1. speaks as God directs.
 - 2. accepts what God says.
 - 3. does not change what God says.
 - 4. accepts the promises of God.
 - 5. looks beyond power, fame, and fortune to divine promises.
- B. Do you walk by faith?

By Faith Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28

- I. ... Was Hidden by His Parents - verse 23; cf. Exodus 1:6 - 2:9; Acts 7:17-20

- II. ... Refused to Be Called the Son of Pharaoh's Daughter - verse 24-26; cf. Exodus 2:10-15
 - A. A Mature Decision - Hebrews 11:24; Acts 7:22-25
 - B. A Decision We Must Make - Titus 2:11-14
 - C. A Courageous Decision - Hebrews 11:25; Titus 2:12; 2 Timothy 3:12
 - D. A Wise Decision - Hebrews 11:26; Matthew 16:26-27; 1 Peter 1:3-5

- III. ... Forsook Egypt. - verse 27; cf. Exodus 2:11-15; Hebrews 11:1

- IV. ... Kept the Passover. - verse 28; cf. Exodus 12:1-36; Luke 22:13-20; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

By Faith

Hebrews 11:29-31

I. Israel - Hebrews 11:29-30

A. Passed through the Red Sea - Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14

1. Saving Faith

- a. God spoke. - Exodus 14:15-16
- b. Israel believed. - Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14:31
- c. Israel obeyed. - Exodus 14:22
- d. God saved. - Exodus 14:23-30

2. Principles of Faith

- a. Faith is courageous. - Exodus 14:13
- b. Faith waits for divine orders. - Exodus 14:13
- c. Faith trusts God for deliverance. - Exodus 14:13-14
- d. Faith obeys. - Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22, 26-27

B. The walls of Jericho fell down. - Hebrews 11:30; Joshua chapter 6

1. Saving Faith

- a. God speaks. - Joshua 6:2-5
- b. Man believes. - Hebrews 11:30
- c. Man obeys. - Hebrews 11:30; Joshua 6:6-21
- d. God blesses. - Hebrews 11:30; Joshua 6:20

2. Principle: Faith trusts God for victory. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

II. The harlot Rahab did not perish. - Hebrews 11:31; Joshua chapter 2; 6:22-25; Matthew 1:5

A. Saving Faith

- 1. She believed because of the mighty acts of God of which she had heard. - Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2:8-13
- 2. She acted on that faith. - Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2:3-6
- 3. She obeyed. - James 2:25; Joshua 2:17-21
- 4. She was saved. - Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 6:22-25

B. Faith fears God. - Joshua 2:8-11

So Great a Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 11:32-38

Introduction:

- A. T.B. Larrimore preached every night for a month in McKinney, Texas, and every sermon was taken from Hebrews eleven.
- B. The inspired writer knows he cannot cover in detail every example of saving faith, so he summarizes.
- C. What can we learn about saving faith from the great cloud of witnesses?

I. The Faith of the Judges - verse 32

- A. Gideon - Judges 6:11 - 7:23
- B. Barak - Judges chapter 4
- C. Samson - Judges 15:9-17; 16:21-30
- D. Jephthah - Judges chapter 11

II. The Faith of David (King) - verse 32; 1 Samuel chapter 17; Acts 13:22

III. The Faith of Samuel and the Prophets - 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; 15:22-23

IV. The Great Cloud of Witnesses - verses 33-38

- A. Victories of Faith - verses 33-35a
 - 1. subdued kingdoms - 2 Samuel 8:1-14
 - 2. worked righteousness - 2 Samuel 8:15; 23:3; Acts 10:35
 - 3. obtained promises - Joshua 21:45
 - 4. stopped the mouths of lions - Daniel chapter 6
 - 5. quenched the violence of fire - Daniel chapter 3
 - 6. escaped the edge of the sword - 1 Kings 19:1-18
 - 7. out of weakness were made strong - Judges 16:4-30
 - 8. became valiant in battle - 2 Chronicles 14:8-13
 - 9. turned to flight the armies of the aliens - Ibid
 - 10. Women received their dead raised to life again. - 1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Kings 4:8-37
- B. Endurance of Faith - verses 35b - 38
 - 1. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. - under Antiochus Epiphanes, 2 Maccabees 7
 - 2. trial - Jeremiah 20:2, 7; 38:6
 - 3. stoned - 2 Chronicles 24:17-21
 - 4. sawn in two - Isaiah
 - 5. tempted - 2 Maccabees 7
 - 6. slain with the sword - 1 Kings 19:10
 - 7. wandered - 1 Kings 17:1-7; 19:1-10; 2 Kings 1:8
 - 8. the world was not worthy - cf. Acts 22:22

Conclusion: Better Things for Us - verses 39-40

A. These ancient worthies were saved by faith. - Hebrews 11:1-2

B. But they did not receive the promise. - Hebrews 11:39; Genesis 12:3; Hebrews 11:13;
Galatians 3:8, 16, 26-29

C. God reserved the better for us. - Hebrews 11:40

1. Better Spokesman - Hebrews 11:4

2. Better Hope - Hebrews 7:19

3. Better Covenant - Hebrews 7:22

4. Better High Priest - Hebrews 7:28

5. Better Sacrifice - Hebrews 9:23

D. Only through us can they be perfected. - Hebrews 10:1, 4; 9:13-15

E. Do not turn back.

Let Us Run

Hebrews 12:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Living for Christ is like running a marathon.
- B. The reward is the crown of life. - 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
- C. How can we run the race successfully?

I. We must run in the right manner. - Hebrews 12:1

- A. Lay aside
 - 1. Every weight - Philippians 3:7-8
 - 2. Sin - 1 Corinthians 15:34
- B. Run with endurance - Hebrews 6:15; 10:36

II. We must look to the right examples.

- A. The great cloud of witnesses - Hebrews 12:1
- B. Christ - Hebrews 12:2-3
 - 1. He endured the cross. - Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:5-8
 - 2. He was rewarded. - Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 2:9-11

Conclusion:

- A. Are you running the race successfully?
 - 1. Have you laid aside all hindrances? - Hebrews 12:1
 - 2. Are you running with endurance? - Hebrews 12:1
 - 3. Are you looking to Jesus? - Hebrews 12:2-3
- B. Will you receive the crown of life? - 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Divine Discipline

Hebrews 12:4 - 11

Introduction:

- A. Tell of member in Del Rio who said he had never suffered as the result of being a Christian.
- B. All Christians must suffer for righteousness' sake. - 2 Timothy 3:12
- C. This is the chastening of our text. - Hebrews 12:3-4; cf. 10:32-34
- D. What should be our attitude toward suffering for Christ?

I. We must learn how to use chastening. - Hebrews 12:5; cf. Proverbs 3:11-12

II. We must realize the value of chastening.

- A. It is evidence of God's love. - Hebrews 12:6-8; cf. Proverbs 13:24
 - 1. Did God ever love anyone more than he did Jesus? - John 3:35
 - 2. Was ever one the Son of God in a more exalted sense? - John 1:14
 - 3. Did ever one suffer more for righteousness than he? - Hebrews 5:8; 12:3
- B. It is administered wisely. - Hebrews 12:9-10; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- C. It is for our good.- Hebrews 12:10-11; cf. Proverbs 22:15; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:1-2

Conclusion:

- A. If we would be God's children, we must suffer. - Hebrews 12:6
- B. We should rejoice in our sufferings. - 1 Peter 4:12-16

Make Straight Paths

Hebrews 12:12-17

Introduction:

- A. When Israel marched to Canaan, many fainted in the way. - Numbers 1:45-46; 26:63-65
- B. We, as Israel, are journeying to a country. - Hebrews 11:16
- C. How can we be successful in our journey to heaven?

I. Personal Obligations - Hebrews 12:12-14

- A. We must take courage. - Hebrews 12:12; cf. Isaiah 35:3; Hebrews 12:11
- B. We should “make straight paths.” - Hebrews 12:13; cf. Proverbs 4:25-27
- C. Follow peace with all men. - Hebrews 12:14
 - 1. the brethren - Ephesians 4:1-3
 - 2. all men - Romans 12:18
- B. holiness- Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16
- C. without which no man shall see the Lord - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

II. Obligations to the Brethren: “Looking carefully”- Hebrews 12:15-17; cf. Galatians 6:1-2

- A. lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you - cf. Deuteronomy 29:14-20; Romans 16:17-18
- B. Lest there be any fornicator - cf. Hebrews 13:4
- C. or profane person (“godless” - **NASB**; “irreligious” - Arndt & Gingrich) as Esau - Genesis 25:27-34; Colossians 3:1-2

Conclusion:

- A. What if we fail to “make straight paths”? - Hebrews 12:17; cf. Genesis 27:1-40
- B. What if we “make straight paths”? - 2 Peter 1:10-11

See That You Do Not Refuse Him Who Speaks

Hebrews 12:18-29

Introduction:

- A. In a great musical composition, there is often a grand finale in which the listener is moved to the depth of his being. - cf. "1812 Overture"
 - B. Hebrews is a great masterpiece showing the superiority of Christ in order that Jewish Christians might not turn back to the law. - cf. Hebrews 4:14
 - C. Our text is the "grand finale," in which the author reaches the apex of his plea to remain loyal to Christ.
 - D. Why should Christians remain faithful to Christ rather than turn back to the law?
- I. Under the Old Covenant God was unapproachable. - Hebrews 12:18-21; Exodus 19:9-19; 20:18-21; Deuteronomy 4:11; 5:23-27; 9:15, 19
- II. The New Covenant gives access to God.- Hebrews 12:22-24
- A. Mount Zion (Church) - Psalm 132:13-14; 48:1-2; 2:6; Isaiah 2:2; 1 Timothy 3:14-15
 - B. City of the Living God (Church) - Hebrews 11:10; Revelation 21:10-11, 27
 - C. Heavenly Jerusalem (Church) - Revelation 3:12; 21:2
 - D. Innumerable Company of Angels - Hebrews 1:13-14; Revelation 5:11-12
 - E. General Assembly and Church of the First Born, Who Are Registered in Heaven (Christians, Those Who Compose the Church) - Luke 10:20; 2 Timothy 2:19
 - F. God, the Judge of All (Owner of Church) - Acts 17:30-31
 - G. Spirits of Just Men Made Perfect (Souls of Dead in Christ) - Revelation 7:13-17
 - H. Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant (Head of Church, King of Kingdom) - Hebrews 8:6; Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 2:29-31
 - I. Blood of Sprinkling That Speaks Better Things Than That of Abel (Price of Church) - Genesis 4:8-10; Hebrews 9:14; 10:22
- III. See that you do not refuse Him Who speaks. - Hebrews 12:25-29; cf. Hebrews 1:1-2
- A. Then
 1. They did not escape who refused.- Hebrews 12:25; Exodus 19:7-8; 24:1-8; Numbers 14:20-35; Hebrews 3:7-11
 2. His voice shook the earth.- Hebrews 12:26; cf. Exodus 19:18
 - B. Now
 1. Much more shall we not escape. - Hebrews 12:25; cf. 2:1-4
 2. He will shake not the earth only, but also heaven. - Hebrews 12:26-27; Haggai 2:6-7; 2 Peter 3:10-13
 - C. Finally, we should hear him because:
 1. We are receiving the eternal kingdom.- Hebrews 12:28; cf. Daniel 2:44
 2. Our God is a consuming fire.- Hebrews 12:29; cf. Deuteronomy 4:24; Leviticus 10:1-3; Hebrews 10:26-31

Conclusion:

- A. Why should we remain loyal to Christ?
 1. The new is so much better than the old.
 2. We have received the eternal kingdom
 3. Our God is a consuming fire.
- B. Therefore, see that you do not refuse him who speaks.

The Sanctified Life

Text: Hebrews 13

Introduction:

- A. The apostle Paul characteristically closes his letters with practical exhortations.
 - B. Having developed the great theme of Hebrews, Christ is better, to encourage them to hold fast, the inspired writer now gives specific instructions on how to live steadfastly. - Hebrews 12:25; 13:20-21
 - C. To be steadfast to Christ is to live the sanctified life. - Hebrews 13:12
 - D. What are the characteristics of the sanctified life?
- I. Brotherly Love- verses 1, 23-25; John 13:35; Hebrews 6:10; e.g., members of church in Baytown helping Bessie
- A. Hospitality- verse 2; cf. Genesis 18:1-8; 19:1-3
 - B. Compassion for Those Who Suffer for Christ - verse 3; cf. Matthew 25:39-40
- II. Sexual Purity- verse 4; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- III. Being Content With What We Have- verses 5-6; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 118:6; 23:4
- IV. Following the Leaders Example of Life - verse 7
- A. “those who rule over you” (“your leaders” - ESV) - cf. Acts 15:22; Hebrews 13:17, 24; Matthew 19:28; 1 Timothy 5:17
 - B. “whose faith follow” - Philippians 3:17
- V. Loyalty to Christ- verses 8 - 16
- A. As Christ is unchangeable, we should remain firm. - verses 8 - 9; cf. Hebrews 1:10-12; 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:13-15
 - B. It is by grace, not meat, that we are strengthened.- verse 9; Acts 20:32; 1 Corinthians 8:8; Romans 14:17
 - C. Those who keep the Law cannot eat of our altar. - verses 10-12; cf. Leviticus 16:27; 1 Corinthians 10:18
 - D. Let us go forth without the camp. - verse 13; Hebrews 12:2; 11:26
 - E. Seek the city to come. - verse 14; 11:13-16
 - F. Offer sacrifices:
 - 1. Praise - verse 15; cf. 1 Peter 2:5
 - 2. Thanksgiving (“acknowledge” - ESV) - verse 15; cf. Hosea 14:2; Psalm 50:12-15
 - 3. To do good - verse 16; cf. Isaiah 1:12-17
 - 4. To share - verse 16
- VI. Obeying the Elders - verse 17; cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:17
- VII. Praying for Preachers - verses 18-19; cf. Colossians 4:2-4; Philemon verse 22; 1 John 5:14
- VIII. Perfection in Work - verses 20-21
- A. “God of peace” - Isaiah 9:6-7; cf. Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - B. “brought up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead” - Romans 1:4
 - C. “Great Shepherd” - cf. John 10:11; 1 Peter 5:4

D. "blood" - Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 8:13

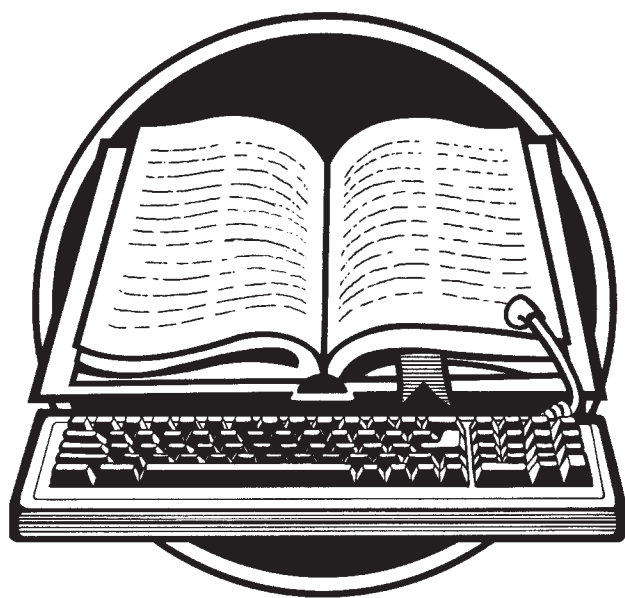
E. "make you complete in every good work" - cf. Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 4:13-16

IX. Receiving the Word - verse 22; cf. Acts 13:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Conclusion:

A. The sanctified life is the result and proof of loyalty to Christ. - Hebrews 13:12-13

B. Are our lives so sanctified? - Hebrews 13:20-21



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