

A Study in the Book of Hebrews

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Lesson 1: Hebrews 1:1-4

I. God has spoken to us (vs. 1, 2)

- 1.1. In the past, how did God speak and to whom? (See also Psalm 68:11; John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

How did He speak to Moses? (Exodus 33:11)

- 1.2. How did God speak in these last days; and to whom? (vs. 2) (See also John 1:1)

Jesus Christ is God's final Word.

Think carefully through the following questions in order to get at the question of how God communicates with man.

What do John 8:28 and 12:50 tell us about what Jesus said and the source of His words? What do John 14:26; John 15:26 and John 16:13 tell us about what the Holy Spirit says? And finally, what is the source of the written Word?
2 Peter 1:21

Based on these verses then, one can conclude that _____ is the source of both Jesus' words and the Holy Spirit's words. Both of them mediated God's Word to man.

Notice what Jesus says about His words in John 6:63. Look also at Hebrews 4:12. What characteristic does the Word have?

- 1.3. Consider some responses to the Word. (Exodus 20:19; Job 23:12; Isaiah 66:2; Jeremiah 15:16; James 1:22)

What should our response be?

- 1.4. Describe the role of the Word in Salvation. (1 Corinthians 15:1 & 2; James 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:15)

1.5. What does Isaiah 55:11 add to our understanding of the power of the Word?

1.6. Considering the fact that the God of the universe who made heaven and earth has spoken with words, think about and discuss the importance of words and reading for the Christian.

II. Description of the Son (vs. 2-4)

2.1. What appointment was He given? (See also Ephesians 1:18; Colossians 1:15-17)

Who appointed Him?

2.2. What was Jesus' role in creation? (vs. 2) (Genesis 1:26 *notice the word 'us'*; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16)

2.3. What is Jesus like as it relates to the image of God? (vs. 3) (See again Colossians 1:15-17; John 14:9)

Express image of His person means "He is the impress of his substance." (God, of course, is not visible. He is spirit. But Jesus is the physical 'stamp' of God.)

2.4. According to Hebrews 1:3, now that creation exists, what is Jesus' role in creation? (See also Colossians 1:17)

See Hebrews 2:10: All things are _____ Him and _____ Him. (See Colossians 1:16)

2.5. What has He done with our sins? (vs. 3) Did He have help?

Purged is *catharsis*: cleansed or purified

2.6. He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (vs. 3) What is the significance of the location and what is the significance of His position in that location?

(See also Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:44; Ephesians 1:20, 21; Hebrews 10:12, 13)

2.7. He is much better than the angels. Why? (vs. 4)

By what means did He have a more excellent name than they?

Key Ideas

- ³⁵/₁₇ God speaks. He created the world through speech and has been speaking into the world at times through history.
- ³⁵/₁₇ His Son, the second person of the trinity, is the greatest message ever spoken into the world. He is The Word.

Digging Deeper

This section of each lesson will ask questions that will challenge you to dig deeper into the text as well as compare Scripture with Scripture to discern some insights that are not right out on the surface.

- ³⁵/₁₇ Do a study of acceptable and unacceptable responses to the Word in Scripture.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Make a list of metaphors used in Scripture to describe the Word. For example, the Word is a lamp; the Word is a hammer.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Study the power of the Word or the Gospel. What is the Word capable of? What does it mean that His Word will not return void?
- ³⁵/₁₇ I'm intrigued by the fact that Jesus and the Holy Spirit only spoke what they received of the Father. Try to write this out in a paragraph to explain it to a young person or a new Christian. What does it say about the God-head to realize that neither Christ nor the Holy Spirit speak their own Words but only what they received from God the Father?
- ³⁵/₁₇ Study the concept of the fact that Christ is at the right hand of God the Father. What does that position entail and what are the implications of the often repeated phrase "until He makes your enemies your footstool"?

Prompts for Meditation

This section of each lesson will contain statements and questions that are not so much to be answered directly but rather to stimulate thoughtful meditation.

- ³⁵/₁₇ Think about your reaction to the fact that the God who made the universe has spoken. Think about your response to that word. Are you more like the Israelites or like Moses?
- ³⁵/₁₇ Think about how great He is, how small you are and what an awesome and amazing privilege it is to hear from God through His Word.
- ³⁵/₁₇ If Christ is the heir of all things, consider the fact that you are part of His inheritance, and He is pleased with what He has received.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Think through the idea that it is the word of Christ that holds all of the universe together. It is an active holding. And what happens when He stops holding it together?
- ³⁵/₁₇ Think about what God must be like if Christ is the exact representation of His person.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Consider the fact that if you are in Christ, every one of your sins have been purged.
- ³⁵/₁₇ God has invested everything in "The Word", both spoken and written, rather than in the visual. Think through the implications of this in your life with respect to how much time you invest in listening and reading the Word compared to other forms of media. In the same vein, think about how the truth is to be distributed if God has invested so much in His Word.

Lesson 2: Hebrews 1:4-14

I. The Son is better than the angels (vs. 4-14)

- 1.1. What comparison does the author first use to compare how much better Christ is than the angels? (vs. 4)
- 1.2. What is that name and how did He get it?
- 1.3. There are basically three comparisons of Jesus to angels to show He is greater than they.
 - a. He is the S_____ (vs. 5-7)
 - b. He is G_____ (vs. 8-12)
 - c. He is L_____ (vs. 13 – 14)
 - d. What are the angels' roles?
vs. 6

vs. 7

vs. 14

II. A deeper look at what we learn about Jesus Christ in this passage

- 2.1. He is referred to as “begotten” in verse 5. What does that mean? (John 1:14, 18; John 3:16, 18; Acts 13:33; 1 John 4:9)
- 2.2. What day is “today” in verse 5?
- 2.3. What characteristics of deity does God attribute to the Son?
 - a. God calls the Son, *God*. (vs 8)
 - b. List some others:
 - c. Consider His love of righteousness and hatred of iniquity. (vs. 9) (Daniel 9:24; Matthew 3:15; Psalm 145:17)

What is righteousness? Righteousness is purity of heart and a life that matches up with God's character. It is being and doing right.

d. The Son was God's communication to man, God's agent in creation and the sacrifice for sin. In being these things He was the *mediator* between God and man. How was He installed or initiated into that position? (vs. 1:9b)

2.4. Who are the companions (fellows) mentioned in verse 9? (Does Hebrews 2:11 help?)

2.5. Describe Christ's work of creation and His relationship to it. (vs. 10-12)

III. A Look at how Scripture is used in this Passage

3.1. Look up the references in the Old Testament and compare the wording between the two. Use 1:10-12 compared with Psalm 102:25-27 for example. Are they the same? To what do you attribute any differences?

3.2. Since all Scripture, including the book of Hebrews, is inspired by God, it's interesting to note how the Holy Spirit uses other Scriptures. Notice for example the second quote in verse 5. This comes from 2 Samuel 7:14.

In 2 Samuel, who is he talking about when he says, "He shall be My son"?

Who does the author of Hebrews say it refers to?

Notice the second half of 2 Samuel 7:14. Could this refer to Christ? Why or why not?

How do we know when the Old Testament reference to Christ stops and the parallel with David continues?

Key Idea

³⁵₁₇ Jesus Christ is greater than all because He is God.

Digging Deeper

³⁵₁₇ Go through verses 8-13 and list each aspect of the deity of Christ you find there. Then use a concordance or computer search to find other passages that discuss the same attribute of Christ.

³⁵₁₇ Look into the role of angels in the giving of the Law. (Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53)

³⁵₁₇ Look up some of the other scriptures quoted from the Old Testament. Study the Old Testament context to see where the prophetic piece picks up and where it leaves off.

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Consider the word “gladness” in verse 9 as an attitude Christ had as He took on the responsibility of suffering for you.

³⁵₁₇ Think about the changeableness of the world and all of the stuff going on in it compared to the unchanging nature of Christ and His lordship over that world.

³⁵₁₇ Think about verse 14 as it relates to you.

³⁵₁₇ Meditate on Christ's love of righteousness and hatred of iniquity. To what degree does your character conform to His? What can be done to close the gap?

Lesson 3: Hebrews 2:1-18

I. *Warning Against Negligence (verses 1-4)*

1.1. The author begins with the word *therefore* which ties what he is about to say with what has already been said. Since Jesus is God's communication to man, God's agent in creation, God's sustainer of creation and the sacrifice for sin; and since Jesus has a name and ministry greater than the angels, we should respond in a certain way. What is that certain way? (vs. 1)

1.2. What things that we have heard is he referring to in verse 1?

1.3. According to verse 1, what could happen if we don't pay attention to what we've heard? What are the characteristics of *drifting*?

1.4. Note the comparison in verses 2 and 3 between what the Lord has said and what angels have proclaimed.

a. How is the message of angels described?

b. What is the result of neglecting what they said?

c. *But*, Jesus was declared to be greater than the angels in Chapter 1 and therefore how should we respond to what He has taught?

d. What are the repercussions of not paying close attention?

1.5. How was the word confirmed by those who heard? (vs 4)

Note: There is a natural human tendency to fall back into the way of thinking we came out of when we came to Christ. For the audience of this letter, the old way was Judaism. For us, it is likely something else. On the human side it takes perseverance, discipline and persistence to stay on track and keep moving forward and not fall back into our former way of thinking and believing. Over and over in this book you will see the author's challenge to be careful not to fall back into old patterns of thinking and believing. We'll point those out as we go along.

II. Man Made a Little Lower than Angels (verses 5-8)

- 2.1. Rather than angels, who has God put over his creation as well as the world to come? (vs. 5-6) (See also I Cor. 6:3)
- 2.2. What is:
 - God's focus on man? (vs. 6)
 - Man's position? (vs. 7)
 - Man's crown? (vs. 7)
 - Man's dominion?
(as you consider this, also pay attention to the clarification in verse 8. Is it a matter of *what's* included in the dominion or a matter of *when*?)
- 2.3. How does this fit with Genesis 1 – 2 as far as man's assigned role is concerned?

III. The Son Becomes Man so that He can Bring Many Sons to Glory (verses 9-18)

- 3.1. Jesus was made lower than the angels. In other words he became a man. Consider that for a moment - God becoming man. Look at Philippians 2:7-9 and note the voluntary downward steps that Jesus Christ took from heaven to become a man.
- 3.2. It's difficult sometimes to know how the grammar of a verse fits together. In verse 9 it appears that "crowned with glory and honor is because of the suffering of death."
- 3.3. How does what Jesus is crowned with in verse 9 compare to what man was crowned with in verse 7?
- 3.4. By God's grace, the suffering of Christ in His death was for everyone. (John MacArthur rightly states: "Everyone who believes, that is. The death of Christ can only be applied in its efficacy to those who come to God repentantly in faith...") Why does the author say, "by the *grace* of God"?
- 3.5. According to verse 10, what was fitting? That the founder of our salvation should be made _____ through _____:
(“Perfect” in verse 10 has the idea of completion, i.e. completing it's purpose or function. Jesus in His humanity needed to experience all of life apart from sin. This included the experience of suffering and death.)

3.6. What do you think it means in verse 11 that both He who sanctifies and the ones being sanctified are all of one?

3.7. What is the meaning of the word “sanctified”?

3.8. What are the terms used to describe us in relation to Christ?
(1:9; 2:10; 2:11; 2:13)

3.9. Take a deeper look at 13b where He speaks of the children God has given to Him. What does Jesus say about the people God has given Him in the following verses: John 6:37; John 10:29; John 17: 6, 9, 12, 24?

3.10. Jesus also shared in flesh and blood and became like His brothers so that He could accomplish several things. Make a list of those things from verses 14 – 18.

3.11. According to verse 16 He does not give aid to angels, but to the seed of Abraham. Why do you think He gives aid to human beings but not angels?

Who is the seed of Abraham? (Galatians 3:15-29)

3.12. According to verse 17 what was necessary in order for Jesus to be a merciful and faithful high priest? In what ways was he made like us?

3.13. According to verses 17 and 18 what ministries does Christ have as high priest?

3.14. Define “propitiation”.

Key Ideas

- ³⁵₁₇ There is no other salvation except through Christ. This is not just a Christian teaching. It is an absolute truth about the way things are. If we neglect this salvation, we are lost forever.
- ³⁵₁₇ God made man above all His creation in a position a little lower than the angels.
- ³⁵₁₇ Jesus stooped to this level to identify with us, be a priest for us and to bring many of us to glory with Him.

Digging Deeper

- ³⁵₁₇ Do a study in the book of Hebrews on the communication of truth. Look up such words as hearing, heard; speak, spoken; word, etc.
- ³⁵₁₇ Study and think about the terms the Holy Spirit used to describe Jesus' fellows in 1:9; 2:10; 2:11; 2:13;

Prompts for Meditation

- ³⁵₁₇ Meditate on Psalm 8, a portion of which is quoted in Hebrews 2:6-8.
- ³⁵₁₇ Think about the fact that He is not ashamed to call you a brother. (2:11)
- ³⁵₁₇ Think about the fact that you were a gift to Christ from God. He is thankful for that gift and will take care of it and preserve it forever.
- ³⁵₁₇ According to the last few verses of Hebrews 2, what has qualified Christ to be a high priest for you? Think about the implications of those truths.

Lesson 4: Hebrews 3:1-19

I. The Son is faithful over His own house (vs. 1-6)

- 1.1. Notice the description given to those addressed in this chapter. Who are these people?
- 1.2. What do you think the writer means by asking us to *consider* Jesus? How would you go about following that admonition?
- 1.3. Why is he called the apostle and high priest of our confession? (Think about the definition of 'apostle' and 'high priest'.)
- 1.4. Given the fact that Moses was faithful over his house, what are the author's two arguments for considering Christ worthy of more honor when both were faithful over their respective houses?
- 1.5. What does he mean, "We are his house if we hold fast until the end"? See also Matthew 10:22; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 10:38, 39
- 1.6. What two things are we are to hold fast to until the end? (v.6)

Note: This is another reference to what I think is a theme throughout this book. That is, we must not drift back into the philosophies or religious beliefs we may have come out of when we came to Christ. Trusting Christ is the only answer out there. Holding fast until the end is proof of our true conversion to Christ.

II. The warning to stick with it. (vs. 7-15)

- 2.1. Bringing in a quote from Psalm 95, the writer emphasizes the truth of the fact that we are his house if we continue to the end . This quote runs from verse 7 to 11 and is followed then by a warning to us.
 - a. What was the time period focused on by the Psalmist quoted in verses 7 & 8?
 - b. What was the warning given by the Psalmist to the people of his day?
 - c. What events was he pointing back to in giving this warning?

2.2. What is the warning in verse 12 and who is it addressed to? (Note that here again we have that warning not to depart or turn back.)

2.3 Why does he equate an unbelieving heart with an evil heart?

2.4. What is an important step in preventing this from happening? See verse 13
How can we put the “daily” aspect of this into practice?

2.5. What does the deceitfulness of sin do to us? (vs. 13) What might be some precautions that would help us avoid this?

2.6. Verse 14 gives us another “perseverance” verse. According to this verse, what is the evidence of having become a partaker of Christ?

III. The results of disobedience. (vs. 15-19)

3.1. What is the applicable day of the warning?

3.2. How many rebelled? (vs. 16) (See also 1 Corinthians 10:1-5)

3.3. What did God swear concerning those who were disobedient?

3.4. The reason they were barred from entering was because of _____.

Key Ideas

³⁵₁₇ We are challenged to focus on today. Today we are to have faith and not harden our hearts in the sin of unbelief.

Digging Deeper

³⁵₁₇ Hebrews 3:7 – 11 is quoting from Psalm 95. But the Psalmist is referring to an earlier incident. Go back and find the original passages to investigate what the people had done that had provoked God so.

³⁵₁₇ Do a study of the promises of God related to “Perseverance of the Saints” or what some people call “Eternal Security”.

³⁵₁₇ Look up some passages that encourage us to exhort one another and help one another along in the Christian life.

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Consider the fact that Christ was faithful over His house, whose house you are if you’ve been born again.

³⁵₁₇ Take some time to consider the warnings in this passage and seriously reflect on the faithfulness of your walk in light of them.

³⁵₁₇ In 3:12 he challenges us not to have a similar heart of unbelief. Look up 1 Cor. 10:1-13. note the portion of the people who were “saved” in the exodus in verses 1-4. Then note the portion with whom God was not pleased. Meditate and pray about where you might fit if the assessment were being made today.

Lesson 5: Hebrews 3:16 – 4:13

I. The Failure in the Wilderness – Hebrews 3:16 – 4:2

- 1.1. Verses 16, 17, 18, and 19 each use a different word for the people's failure. List those words.
- 1.2. How do you think these descriptions are related? How does the choice of different descriptions shed light on the subject from different angles?
- 1.3. How many Israelites were the object of God's anger? Is there a lesson for us in this?
- 1.4. Is God angry with those outside of Christ today? Psalm 7:11; John 3:36
- 1.5. Why did the word they heard not profit them? Hebrews 4:2

II. An Old Testament Example

- 2.1. Look at Numbers 14
 - a. Other than God, who else did they not believe?
 - b. So who did they side with?
 - c. What were their complaints?
 - d. How were their complaints unfounded?
 - e. Do we ever have similar complaints?
- 2.2. Look at 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 - a. According to verses 1-4 all of them had some things in common. What?
 - b. These things happened as examples to help us avoid 5 things. List them:
 - verse 6
 - verse 7
 - verse 8
 - verse 9
 - verse 10

c. What's the warning at the end of the series in verse 12?

III. The Opportunity to Enter God's Rest is Available – Hebrews 4:3-13

Note: There are two aspects to the rest spoken of here. One aspect is the rest we will have in heaven. But there is also a rest that we are to enter into here and now. In the Old Testament illustration of the people of Israel, Egypt represents our lost condition. The wilderness wanderings represent a defeated, wandering, unfocused Christian experience and the Promised Land represents victorious Christian living and the rest spoken of here.

- 3.1. Verses 1, 6-8 tell us that a promise remains of entering that rest. The author's argument is that this still applies because David used the word "Today" long after the actual Promised Land journey had been completed.
- 3.2. According to verse 3, who enters into God's rest?
- 3.3. Also in verse 3 we read that "the works were finished from the foundation of the world." (See also verse 10) What works of God were finished from the foundation of the world?
- 3.4. In verses 4 and 5, note the clear connection between the rest God entered on the seventh day and the fact that the people did not enter His rest. It is that same rest that God was enjoying that He wants His people to join Him in.
- 3.5. Verses 6 through 9 contain some very important logic. Make sure you can follow the reasoning he gives there:
It remains that some _____ enter the _____

and

Those who first heard it did not enter

therefore

He now designates another day called _____

because

If Joshua had given them rest then another offer would not have been necessary.

Conclusion:

There remains a _____ available for the _____ of God

3.6. From verse 10: “He who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.”

How thorough was God’s rest?

What kinds of works would God want us to cease?

See Hebrews 6:1 and 9:14. What are dead works?

Also look at Titus 3:5, Romans 4:2, 5; Ephesians 2:9; Galatians 2:16

3.7. Consider the two “Let us...” admonitions in verses 1 and 11. Are these related?

How?

3.8. Diligence is required to enter that rest. It is not something that happens casually. How would you describe what diligence might look like in this context?

3.9. What is powerful enough to help us discern between our thoughts and motives?

How does it do that?

Key Ideas

³⁵/₁₇ A rest remains for the people of God. It is a rest that is to be entered by faith on a daily basis.

³⁵/₁₇ The rest consists of accepting God's work on our behalf and resting in the fact that striving to make ourselves acceptable to God is unnecessary and ineffective.

Digging Deeper

³⁵/₁₇ Do a thorough study of the promises God has given us. Compare these promises with those given to the Old Testament Israelites. Think about their rejection of those promises and consider your own response to the promises God has given you.

³⁵/₁₇ Study the 5 warnings given in I Corinthians 10 and find other verses related to each one that might be of help in defending yourself from following the same path.

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵/₁₇ Meditate on the promises which God has made to you. Is there faith mixed with these words in your heart?

³⁵/₁₇ Meditate on what resting with God in this life would look and feel like with the strivings and human attempts to please God finished.

Lesson 6: Hebrews 4:14 – 5:11

I. Introduction to this Section

In 3:1 we were told to consider Jesus Christ, the High Priest of our confession. Then we were warned of the dangers of not entering in to the rest that God has prepared and promised for us. Such failure represents disobedience and stubbornness on our part.

- 1.1. Since we have such a High Priest, what are we to do? (4:14) (There's that theme again.)
- 1.2. Christ is our great High Priest. What's the significance of the fact that He has passed through the heavens? See I Corinthians 15:20; Colossians 1:15; See especially Hebrews 6:19
- 1.3. In what ways is Christ able to sympathize with our weaknesses? How does that help us hold fast to our confession?
- 1.4. What are the two things we obtain by coming boldly to the throne of grace? What is the distinction between the two and why is it important?

II. Qualifications of a High Priest (5:1-4)

- 2.1. In order for us to understand why a High Priest is necessary and why Christ fulfills that position perfectly, we must understand the qualifications of such a priest. Hebrews 5:1-4 give characteristics or qualifications for High Priest. What are they?
- 2.2. Was Christ also subject to weakness as verse 2 indicates? (Compare Hebrews 7:28)

III. Jesus as our High Priest (5:5-11)

- 3.1. What passages of Scripture does the author use to show that Christ was appointed by God as priest? (vs. 6)
- 3.2. What were the characteristics of Christ's prayers during His life? (vs. 7)

3.3. What do you think it means that Christ learned obedience and was thereby perfected? (As we've seen before, the word perfect means reaching the end for which a thing was designed; its purpose.)

3.4. Jesus Christ is the cause, the personal, mediating cause of eternal salvation. He is the concrete and active cause of it. (vs.9) (Vine)

Key Ideas

³⁵₁₇ Jesus Christ is our perfect high priest. He has been here and experienced the pain and challenges of life. He has endured temptation.

³⁵₁₇ The sacrifice He brought for His people was Himself and thus it was effective in accomplishing all its purposes.

Digging Deeper

³⁵₁₇ Read Leviticus 9, 16, 21 and 22 in order to get a better understanding of the Old Testament priesthood and the responsibilities and ceremonies involved.

³⁵₁₇ Think about how Jesus Christ as High Priest is similar and different in His office than these priests.

³⁵₁₇ Look up the word *begotten* as used in 5:5. Compare it to verses such as John 3:16. When God says in 5:5 “this day I have begotten you”, what day is He speaking of. Look up the explanation given by different Christian traditions.

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Think about what Christ suffered and how he was tempted like we are and now as a faithful priest intercedes for you at the right hand of God.

³⁵₁₇ Think about the fact that Jesus Christ is in heaven as a glorified and resurrected man. He is said to be the first fruits. See I Corinthians 15:20-28.

Lesson 7: Hebrews 5:11-6:20

I. The Rebuke for Spiritual Immaturity (5:11-14)

1.1. Introduction to this section

The author wants to talk about Melchizedek to explain the priesthood of Jesus Christ. This he will get back to in 6:20 after this rebuke. The people have become dull of hearing. In what way may we be vulnerable to this same problem?

1.2. In his admonition what does the writer say his hearers ought to be able to do by now? (vs. 12)

1.3. Instead, what have they come to need?

1.4. The basic principles or elementary principles they seem to need are to be left behind. See Question 2.1 below.

1.5. What is the characteristic of someone on milk? (vs. 13)

1.6 . List characteristics of the mature who use solid food. (vs. 14)

II. The Challenge to Move On (6:1-8)

2.1. What are the elementary principles that are to be left behind? (vs. 1-3)

2.2. It is impossible for people with certain characteristics to do something. (vs.4) What are those characteristics and what can't they do?

Why?

2.3. Once enlightened, tasted, partakers of the Holy Spirit, etc. – Is this speaking of Christians or not? (See especially verse 9 in this connection.)

2.4. This shows how close people can be to true faith and not have it. (See 3:14)

2.5 What do you think is the meaning of the metaphor used in verses 7-8.

III. Evidence of True Faith (6:9-12)

3.1. What are the characteristics mentioned in verses 9-12 that make the author confident of “better things” about them?

These better things are things that accompany _____.

3.2. What is the author's desire for them? (vs. 11-12)

We see once again the challenge to keep pressing forward and not to fall back and give up. This thread of admonition continues throughout the book. Persistence and continuing until the end is the evidence of true saving faith.

IV. God's Promise is Sure (6:12-6:20)

4.1. The goal is endurance. What should we do to avoid slothfulness or sluggishness? (vs. 12)

4.2. Example is Abraham

a. How did God confirm His promise to Abraham? (vs. 13-14) (Gen 22:17)

b. What was the result of Abraham's patient waiting? (Heb 6:15)

4.3. God's Promise Secured

a. What are people's highest form of confirmation of a promise? (vs. 16)

b. What did God do to confirm his promise? (vs. 17)

c. His purpose was to show the heirs of the promise his unchangeable purpose.

Short Digression

A. Who are the heirs of the promise? (Galatians 3:29)

B. To whom were the promises made? (Galatians 3:16)

C. Were the promises made before or after the law came in? (Galatians 3:17)

D. The law and its provisions cannot annul the promises. (Galatians 3:17)

E. Therefore the curse that came through the law has no bearing whatsoever on the promises of God and have no legal jurisdiction over us.

Back to the main line of thinking from Hebrews.

d. God has shown himself trustworthy by two immutable things. (Heb 6:18)

- 1.
- 2.

e. What word picture is used to describe a person coming to Christ for salvation described in verse 18?

4.4. What makes this hope an anchor? (i.e. who is the anchor and where is it anchored?) (Heb 6:18-20)

Key Ideas

³⁵₁₇ We need to keep progressing. Stagnation is deadly.

³⁵₁₇ Because of the certainty of the promise, we have hope.

³⁵₁₇ That hope is anchored behind the veil in the holy of holies in heaven where Christ is now seated. He is a man there demonstrating that other men will follow.

Digging Deeper

³⁵₁₇ Make a study of the evidences for truly knowing Christ in 1 John 2

³⁵₁₇ In I Peter 2:2 Peter tells us to desire the sincere milk of the word, whereas the author of Hebrews appears to say that the meat of the word would be better. Explain the apparent discrepancy.

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Consider whether you are a milk or solid food person in the Christian life. What can you do to grow stronger?

³⁵₁₇ Think through why it's not good to rehash elementary principles all of the time.

³⁵₁₇ Consider the implications of the fact that God's purposes have never changed. Prov 19:21; Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; James 1:17

³⁵₁₇ Read through the first six chapters of Hebrews and look for the challenges to endure to the end.

³⁵₁₇ Read through the words to the hymn, The Solid Rock, and note the allusions to our Hebrews study today.

³⁵₁₇ Consider the impact of words like fled, refuge and lay hold in verse 6:18. How are these descriptions true and important to you?

³⁵₁₇ Think through the implications of the fact that Jesus is our forerunner. 6:20.

Lesson 8: Hebrews 6:20-7:28

I. Importance of Melchizedek picture of Christ

- 1.1. He introduces the topic in 5:9-10
- 1.2. What does he say in verse 5:11 and following that indicates that this is an important concept?
- 1.3. Throughout the first several chapters the writer indicates that Jesus Christ is better.
 - a. Better than the _____ Hebrews 1
 - b. Better then _____ Hebrews 3
 - c. And now, Jesus is a better High Priest, Hebrews 5 and following.

II. Characteristics of Melchizedek Priesthood

Read the background passages in Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4

- 2.1. What did Melchizedek do to Abraham when he met him? (7:1)
- 2.2. What does that imply about Melchizedek compared to Abraham? (7:7)
- 2.3. What did Abraham do to Melchizedek? (7:2)
- 2.4. What is the significance of the tithes paid?
 - a. Which tribe was ordained as the priests in Israel?
 - b. The people of Israel were supposed to pay them tithes. (7:5; Numbers 18:21)
 - c. In essence who paid tithes to whom in the contact with Melchizedek? (7:9, 10)
 - d. How could that be? Levi hadn't been born yet.
 - e. Who then is the greater – Levi or Melchizedek? (See also 7:7)
- 2.5. What is the significance that Melchizedek is without father or mother or genealogy?

- a. He is a priest _____ similar to the Son of God (7:3)
- b. The one who has no death record received tithes from those who died. (7:8)

III. The significance of the comparison (7:11ff)

- 3.1. It implies that perfection (teleosis) could not be attained through the O.T. Priesthood. (7:11) Why is this a valid conclusion based on the argument in verse 11?

- 3.2. What does verse 12 tell you results if there is a change in priesthood?

- 3.3. Why was Christ not eligible for priesthood based on the law? (vs. 14) What tribe were priests supposed to come from?

- 3.4. This is supported by the fact that the new priest, Christ, is priest on the basis of _____. (7:16)

- 3.5. Why was the former commandment set aside? (7:18-19)
 - a.
 - b.

- 3.6. The Old Testament priests were not inaugurated with an _____ whereas the new priesthood was. (7:20,21)

- 3.7. Because of this, Jesus is the surety of a _____ covenant. (7:22)

- 3.8. Why were there many former priests? (7:23)

- 3.9. There had been many priests, but Jesus represents an unchangeable priesthood because he is alive forever (like Melchizedek in type). Therefore, what is he able to do?

Save _____

those who _____

because he _____.

3.10. What made Him fitting for us? (vs. 26-27)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

3.11. Why was there no need to offer sacrifices daily like the O.T. Priests? (7:27)

3.12. The law appointed men who had weaknesses. The oath making Jesus Christ a priest appointed the Son who has been made perfect forever.

Key Ideas

³⁵₁₇ The declaration of Christ's priesthood proves there has been a change in the law.

³⁵₁₇ His priesthood is of a different order.

³⁵₁₇ The old way of the old covenant is over.

Digging Deeper:

³⁵₁₇ Levi was in Abraham so to speak when Abraham paid tithes. Levi therefore paid the tithes. A similar thing happened when Adam sinned. He represented us in that sin. Similarly Christ represented His people when he obeyed and died in their place. Study these passages with that in mind: Romans 5:12 – 6:14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Consider the fact that there was a need for a new priesthood because perfection did not come from the Old Testament priesthood. Think of the implications under the new arrangement.

³⁵₁₇ Think about the fact that Christ's effectiveness is rooted in an “endless life”.

³⁵₁₇ Think about the better hope that we have in Christ. Better than what? Why? How?

Lesson 9: Hebrews 8 The New Covenant is Better than the Old

I. The new vs. the old (8:1-6)

- 1.1. How does the author describe the tabernacle where Christ is seated?
- 1.2. Why would Jesus not be a priest if he were on earth?
- 1.3. Every priest has to have something to offer. What does Christ offer?
- 1.4. He has obtained a more excellent ministry because...

II. The New Covenant

- 2.1. Why is there a need for a new covenant? (verse 7)
- 2.2. What was the problem with the old covenant according to verse 9?
- 2.3. List the benefits of the New Covenant given in verses 10-12
- 2.4. The first covenant is old, obsolete and on the way out. (verse 13)

This discussion of the Old vs. the New Covenants is an extremely important one. It is not just a theoretical discussion related to something that has no bearing on us. So before we go on to chapter 9 we will do a New Testament study of the two covenants. Even as Christians, we have a tendency to old covenant thinking. Let's look first at some of these tendencies and then compare the two covenants.

III. Ways in which we have a tendency to adopt old covenant tendencies.

- ³⁵₁₇ We start to think that we can fully keep God's commandments without divine help, without the need for grace.
- ³⁵₁₇ This results in (or maybe from) lowering the standard and minimizing our failure to comply in order to feel good about how well we're doing. We so want to earn God's approval.
- ³⁵₁₇ We tend to give weight to the minor applications and trivialize the major. (Matt 23:23)
- ³⁵₁₇ We create human rules and traditions. (Mark 7:8; Colossians 2:20ff)
- ³⁵₁₇ We sometimes elevate the law above the clear word of God. (Acts 10:14)
- ³⁵₁₇ We think we can be saved by law-keeping or at least become mature or suppress the flesh by law-keeping. (Galatians 3; Colossians 2:20ff)
- ³⁵₁₇ All of this boosts our pride and promotes judgmental attitudes toward others and actually moves us away from the gospel.

IV. Study comparison between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant

Law, Old Covenant, Flesh

New Covenant, Grace, Faith, Spirit

Heb 7:11, 18; 8:7

Heb 7:19; 22; 8:6

2 Cor 3:3-11

2 Cor 3:3-11; 17, 18

Galatians 3:9-11; 4:9-10; 4:23-30

Gal 3:9, 18; 4:7; 4:30; 5:1

Col 2:14-23

Col 2:14-23

Romans 7:4-12

Romans 7:4-12; 8:4

Romans 9:32; 10:4, 5

Romans 10:8

Heb 13:20, 21

Key Idea

³⁵/₁₇ The New Covenant has replaced the old. It is based on better promises. These promises are not conditional on man's ability to keep them.

Lesson 10: Hebrews 9 – 10:18 Old and New Covenant Compared

I. The Earthly and Heavenly Sanctuary and Service Compared (9:1-10)

- 1.1. The first covenant had items for worship and procedures for worship. List some of those things: (vs. 1-7)

- 1.2. What was the Holy Spirit signifying by this? (vs. 8)

- 1.3. What could NOT be accomplished through these practices? (vs. 9)

- 1.4. How do the sanctuary and offerings of the New Covenant compare to the old? (vs. 11-12)

- 1.5. What does the New Covenant accomplish (vs. 13—15)

II. Death Required in Both Covenants (9:16-28)

- 2.1. Why is a death necessary for a “testament”? What is the illustration he is using?

- 2.2. Under the old covenant, what all had to be purified with blood? (vs. 19-22)

- 2.3. Under the new covenant, the heavenly realities needed a better sacrifice. (vs. 23)

- 2.4. Christ does not need to suffer often because he was able to do something. What was that, specifically, in verse 26?

- 2.5. What are the serious personal implications from verse 27?

- 2.6. What does it mean that he *bore* peoples' sins? (vs. 28)

- 2.7. According to the promise of His coming in verse 28, He will come without something and for a particular purpose. Describe this great happening that we can look forward to.

III. Animal Sacrifices Not Sufficient (10:1-4)

- 3.1. In verse 1 the law is described as the S_____ and not the real substance. What do you think that means?
- 3.2. What could these sacrifices NOT do? (vs. 1)
- 3.3. If these sacrifices could have made them perfect, what two results would have come about? (vs. 2)
- 3.4. Rather than doing this, they were actually a continual R_____ of sins. (vs. 3)

IV. Christ's Sacrifice Sufficient (10:5-18)

- 4.1. According to verses 5 and 6, what did God NOT desire? In other words, what was not really in God's ultimate will?
- 4.2. Rather, Jesus came to do what? (vs. 7)
- 4.3. According to verse 9, by saying this, Jesus takes away the first in order to establish the second. Takes away the first what? ...to establish the second what?
- 4.4. Based on this will, what has happened to us believers once for all? (vs. 10)
- 4.5. Jumping down to verse 14, what does it say happened to those who were sanctified?
- 4.6. Now go back and look at verse 1. The old covenant could not make the people perfect. But the second covenant does. And if it does, what two things should happen? (See vs. 2)

4.7 What are your thoughts on the idea that our consciousness of sin should be gone.

4.8 Consider verse 12 *one sacrifice, forever, sat down*. These are important expressions. What is the implication?

4.9. The New Covenant consists of writing God's laws where?

.... and in forgiving all _____ . (vs. 16-18)

4.10. He concludes this section by saying that where there is "remission" there is no more offering for sins. Remission means that the sins were put away as though they had never been committed.

Key Ideas

³⁵₁₇ This section is key to the entire message of the gospel.

³⁵₁₇ What the old covenant could not do, Christ has done.

³⁵₁₇ It is clearly taught here that if the old covenant had been effective, two results would have obtained: 1) Sacrifices would have ceased and 2) guilty conscience would be gone because the sin issue had been solved.

³⁵₁₇ What the old covenant could not do, the new covenant has done.

Digging Deeper

³⁵₁₇ Read Exodus 26-30 which describes the original tabernacle.

³⁵₁₇ Think through the significance of the fact that when Jesus died, the veil in temple was torn from top to bottom.

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Consider the fact that the priest could go into the holiest place only once a year and now believers in Christ are invited in at will.

³⁵₁₇ Take additional time to think about the fact that the old rituals could not make the comer perfect. See Hebrews 9:9; Hebrews 10:1-4 And yet what those could not do, the sacrifice of Christ accomplished.

³⁵₁₇ It's interesting to me that the heavenly originals needed purification as well, albeit with better sacrifices. See Hebrews 9:23

³⁵₁₇ Meditate on the fact that it is appointed for each of us to die once and then a judgment follows. Is that a threatening thought to you?

Lesson 12: Hebrews 10:19-25 – Response in Faith

I. The foundation of our response (10:19-21)

1.1. Having _____ (10:19)

- a. What is the basis of that boldness?
- b. What is the symbolism of the veil and His flesh all about?
- c. Is the boldness presumed or commanded?
- d. The boldness is required to enter where?
Christ is our forerunner there (Hebrews 9:24), and Christ's presence there is an anchor for our soul (6:19).

1.2. Having _____ (10:21)

How does having such a high priest increase our confidence?
(For study and meditation, look up the references to high priest within the book of Hebrews.)

II. First Response – Let us draw near (10:22)

2.1. Draw near to what? (See also James 4:8)

2.2. What are the descriptors of our drawing near?

True _____

A sincere and undivided heart

Full _____

Hearts _____

Here's the discussion of the conscience again. Our consciences have been cleansed.

Bodies _____

Not baptism but cleansing of the Word. See Eph 5:25; Titus 3:5

III. Next response – Let us hold fast the confession (10:23)

- 3.1. What is the foundation for holding fast?
- 3.2. This seems to be a theme in Hebrews as we have mentioned before.
See 2:1; 3:7; 3:14; 4:14; 6:11; 7:25
- 3.3. Basically the author repeatedly encourages and exhorts his readers to stick with it. Do you ever feel like you need that kind of repeated exhortation?

IV. Final response – Let us consider one another (10:24-25)

- 4.1. In considering one another, what is the goal?
 - a. Provoke or stir up _____
 - b. Not forsaking _____
 - c. Exhort _____
- 4.2. This requires serious reflection on our part.
 - a. What conditions must be in place for us to be able to fulfill this command?
 - b. What are some steps we could take in our church to make this kind of interaction more likely?
- 4.3. Study carefully some of the other “one anothers” in Scripture that require a vibrant body life.

Romans 12:10, 16, 25

Galatians 5:13

Eph 5:19;21

1 Thess 3:12 4:18;5:11; 5:15

1 Peter 4:8, 9, 10

2 Cor 13:11

Eph 4:2; 32

Col 3:16

James 5:16

Key Ideas

- ³⁵₁₇ Because of the previous truth, we can and should have boldness to enter the throne room of God.
- ³⁵₁₇ We should hang on to our confession and help others do the same.
- ³⁵₁₇ It's all based not on emotional feelings but the anchor of truth.

Prompts for Meditation

- ³⁵₁₇ Consider the old system where the offerings could not take away sin, “but this man” accomplished everything. See Hebrews 10:11-14
- ³⁵₁₇ Think about the fact that the Old Covenant depended upon obedience without strength, whereas in the New Covenant all that is needed is provided by God.
- ³⁵₁₇ Consider the invitation to draw near. Hebrews 10:19-22

Lesson 13: Hebrews 10:26-39 – Exhortation Not to Fall Back

I. The judgment on those who fall back.(10:26-31)

- 1.1. In the context of the message, what does it mean to sin willfully?
- 1.2. Why would there be no more sacrifice for sins?
- 1.3. If Christ is not the answer, what alternatives are available? (vs. 27 & 29)
- 1.4. What is a person guilty of when he rejects the solution Christ provides? (vs. 29)

II. Exhortation based on former faithfulness (10:32-38)

- 2.1. What are some of the evidences the people had made a good start?
- 2.2. Why does he ask them to recall this? (See vs. 23 & 35)
- 2.3. What are the results of perseverance?
- 2.4. God has no pleasure in what? (See also Luke 9:62)

III. Assurance possible (10:39)

See verse 39 as a word of encouragement. Note that true believing results in the saving of the soul and prevents the falling back to perdition. Recall that after a similar warning passage in chapter 6, the author exhibits confidence in better things of his readers -- things that accompany salvation. Those who are truly saved do not quit, give up or fall away. They persevere until the end. So keep persevering! Persevering does not keep us saved. The fact or reality of salvation produces perseverance.

Lesson 14: Hebrews 11 – The Necessity of Faith

I. What is faith? (Verse 1)

Substance = confidence, assurance, giving substance to
Evidence = proof or proving

These are for things hoped for and NOT seen. Romans 8:24 says that hope that is seen is not hope.

II. What is the result? (Verse 2)

III. Faith is essential because without it what's impossible? (Verse 6)

What are the two essential beliefs one must have?

IV. After listing a series of people of faith, the writer summarizes in verse 13.

They died in _____.

Had they received the promises?

Having seen them afar off they were a _____, they e _____
them and c _____.

V. Another summary is given in verse 39.

What did they all obtain?

How does that relate to verse 2?

Had they received the promises?

VI. Now back to verse 3 and the survey of people of faith. For each of these write out

1) What they believed without seeing, 2) How they acted on it, 3) What testimony resulted? I've given you the "who" with the verse number in parenthesis.

We(3)

Abel(4)

Enoch(5)

Noah(7)

Abraham(8)

Sarah(11)

Abraham(17)

Isaac(20)

Jacob(21)

Joseph(22)

Moses(23-28)

Israelites(29-30)

Rahab(31)

Prompts for Meditation

³⁵₁₇ Think through the definition of faith and what someone coming to God must believe. Consider that this is not faith in faith, but faith in specific information provided by God.

³⁵₁₇ Consider what testimony God and others will have concerning your faith and your visible acts that demonstrated that faith.

³⁵₁₇ Does it bother you that they all died in faith not having received the promises. Are you prepared for that in your own case?

Lesson 15: Hebrews 12 – Appeal for Endurance in the Race

I. Help for the Race

- 1.1. Surrounded by witnesses – those who have testified—is a motivation for persevering
See 11:2; 11:4 (twice in this verse); 11:6; 11:39
(I don't believe these witnesses are watching us. They are witnesses of God's faithfulness and the reward of persevering.)

1.2. Proper Preparation and Attitude

- a. Lay aside every _____
- b. Also lay aside _____
- c. Run the race with _____
(Notice that it is the race that is set before us. Not someone else's race.)
- d. Keep your eyes on _____ who finished His race successfully

1.3. Example of Jesus

- a. He Himself is the _____ and _____ of faith.
- b. He saw the _____ of a successful completion.
- c. As a result He _____ the cross.
- d. He _____ (looked down upon, scorned) the shame.
- e. He concluded His race with triumph.

1.4. What are we to consider as we look at Him and His example? (vs. 3-4)

- a. Consider the _____ He endured from sinners.
- b. Consider that you have not resisted to _____ in striving against sin.

II. God's Discipline

2.1. Don't forget the exhortation regarding chastening. (vs. 5-11)

- a. Do not _____ it. (vs. 5)
- b. Do not be _____ by it. (vs. 5)
- c. Because God disciplines those He _____. (vs. 6)

Discipline means instruct, train or educate. (The word “chasten” in this passage is the word for child discipline. The word “scourge” in verse 6 means “whip” and is the only place in this passage where that word is used.)

d. God disciplines for our profit that we may partake in His _____
(vs. 10).

e. According to verse 14, without holiness we won't _____.

f. Chastening yields the peaceable fruit of _____ to those who are trained by it. (vs. 11) Trained is the word from which we get our word “gymnasium.”

III. Our Response (vs. 12-17)

3.1. How are we to respond? (vs. 12-17)

Straighten up! Don't be discouraged. (vs. 5). Instead of feeling all droopy and defeated, straighten up, stand tall and move forward.

Make straight paths for your feet. In this way your lameness, your struggles and temptations and weaknesses won't get worse.

Pursue _____ and _____. (vs. 14)

Watch out for others also. (see also 4:1; 10:24 and Jude 22, 23)
He especially points out bitterness, sexual immorality and profane (worldly, godless, unholy).

3.2. How can we respond this way? -- A comparison of two approaches

What are the characteristics of the mountain to which we have NOT come?
(vs. 18-21)

What are the characteristics of the mountain to which we HAVE come?
(vs. 22-24)

IV. One more warning (vs. 25)

See also Heb 2:2,3; Heb 6:4 ff; Heb 10;

There is no other offer of salvation. This is it. There is an unshakeable kingdom coming and therefore we should focus on the promise of that kingdom and the way of salvation the king provides. (See also 2 Peter 3:10-13)

Lesson 16: Hebrews 13—Miscellaneous Teachings and Conclusion

I. Consideration for Others (Verses 1-3)

- 1.1. What do you think he means by brotherly love?
- 1.2. And what does it imply to say, “Let it continue?”
- 1.3. Verse 2 actually says, Don’t neglect *philoxenia*.
Philo = brotherly love
Xenia = strangers (for example xenophobia = fear of foreigners)

See also Romans 12:13; 1 Tim 3:2; 1 Tim 5:10; Titus 1:8; 1 Pet 4:9
- 1.4. What is to be our attitude toward prisoners and those mistreated? How are we doing with that?

II. Moral Purity (Verse 4)

- 2.1. Verse 4 might better be worded, “Let marriage be honored...”
- 2.2. There are two aspects to this issue – both positive and negative. On the negative side God will judge both _____ and _____.
- 2.3. On the positive side, God wants marriage and the marriage bed to honored and pure. In 1 Tim 4:3 Paul says that one of the signs of false doctrine in the last days is the forbidding of marriage.

III. Contentment (Verses 5-6)

- 3.1. In our lives we are to avoid C_____ and to be C_____
- 3.2. What is the promise that should be able to help us to avoid these things?

IV. Attitude toward our leadership (Verses 7 & 17)

- 4.1. What do these verses tell us we should do with respect to our leaders?

V. Doctrinal Stability (Verse 9)

God desires that we not be carried about by every wind of doctrine. (Eph 4:14)
To this end God has given us His Word and pastors and teachers for our edification.

Notice that we are to be established by grace and not by rules about various foods.
See also Col 2:20-23

VI. God's Call to Come Outside (Verses 10-16)

6.1. What is the significance of the fact that the sacrifices were burned outside the camp? See Ex 29:14; Lev 4:16-21

6.2. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus suffered outside the camp?

6.3. Finally, what is the significance of what is being asked of us in verse 13?

6.4. What kind of sacrifices are we to offer God in these verses?

VII. Final Thoughts (Verses 18-25)

7.1. What is the basis for the author's request for prayer? Does that have any implication for us?

7.2. In his benediction the author asks God to do something significant:

a. Equip them for what?

Why is this equipping necessary?

b. Working *what* in them?

c. *Through* what means?

Summary

I think it would be helpful as we conclude our study of this book to state some of the key principles we've gained from the study and then list the passages that demonstrate these principles. As we do this, we need to remember the primary audience for this book was Jewish Christians living in the first century. We as Gentile believers of the 21st century need to consider the applications that fit our situation.

Principle 1.

Jesus Christ is the final communication of God with man. His sacrifice accomplished everything for us and grants us forgiveness, sanctification and rest. He is the reality of what the Old Testament pictures.

Passages:

Hebrews 1 – Christ, the Final Word, is better than the Angels

Hebrews 2:14-18 Releases from bondage

Hebrews 3:1-5 Christ greater than Moses

Hebrews 5 Christ is the great High Priest; see also chapter 7

Hebrews 8 Christ's Priesthood and Covenant are better than the old

Hebrews 8 New Covenant actually solves the problem – renews the person and gives the Holy Spirit plus the internal motivation to walk in God's ways.

Hebrews 9 The true tabernacle in heaven better than the earthly one

Hebrews 9:26, 27 Christ bore our sin and thus put away sin.

Hebrews 10 Christ's sacrifice able to perfect us and cleanse our conscience, unlike the Old Covenant or any man-made legal system

Principle 2.

Looking anywhere else is futile and endangers your eternal soul. For Hebrews readers it means not returning to Judaism. For us it means not returning to the world or religious works as a means of being saved or growing in the Christian life.

Passages:

Hebrews 2:1-4 Be careful not to drift. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

Hebrews 3:6-12 Don't harden your hearts like O.T. Israel did.

Hebrews 6:4 – 8 It's impossible to renew repentance if you reject the only hope of salvation there is.

Hebrews 10:26 -31 How much worse if you trample on the blood of Christ

Hebrews 12:25 Don't refuse him who speaks for if they did not escape, how shall you?

Principle 3.

We as individuals must be careful to make progress and not give up the ground we've covered. Persevere to the end.

Passages:

Hebrews 4:1-11 Don't fail to enter the rest that has been prepared for you.

Hebrews 4:14 Hold fast your profession

Hebrews 5:12-14 You ought to be teachers by now.

Hebrews 6:1-3 Don't keep laying the foundation of elementary principles.

Hebrews 6:11-12 Show same diligence to the end – the oath to Abraham shows the provision has been made for perseverance.

Hebrews 9:28 To those who eagerly look for him will he appear the second time.

Hebrews 10:23 Hold fast our confession

Hebrews 10:35-36 Do not cast away your confidence. You have need of endurance

Hebrews 11 Consider the testimony of and about those individuals of faith and imitate them.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Run the race patiently and without baggage.

Hebrews 12:3 Consider Jesus lest you become weary

Hebrews 12:7-14 Look on discipline as a good sign and don't be discouraged by it. Pick yourself up and keep going.

Principle 4.

We are responsible to others in the body to enable them to make progress and not fall back either.

Passages:

Hebrews 3:12, 13 Beware lest there be any among you with heart of unbelief. Exhort one another today.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us fear lest any of us come short of the rest we are entitled to.

Hebrews 10:24-25 Consider one another to stimulate toward love a good works. Do not forsake assembling together.

Hebrews 12:15-17 Look carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God.

Key Words in the Book:

Consider: 3:1; 7:4; 10:24; 12:3; 3:7

Perfect (Perfection): 2:10; 5:9; 6:1; 7:11; 7:19; 7:28; 9:9; 9:11; 10:1; 10:14; 11:40; 12:23

Better (New): 1:4; 6:9; 7:7; 7:19; 7:22; 8:6; 8:8; 8:13; 9:15; 9:23; 10:20; 10:34; 11:16; 11:35; 11:50; 12:24