

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 10
The Book of Hebrews
Hebrews 2 - 6

Suggested Weekly Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

NAS Version

March 6 – March 12

Monday - Hebrews 2 Christ is Superior to the Angels

Tuesday - Hebrews 3 Christ is Superior to Moses

Wednesday - Hebrews 4 Christ is Superior to Joshua - The Believer's Rest

Thursday - Hebrews 5 Christ - The Perfect High Priest

Friday - Hebrews 6 Be Careful not to Fall Away

Saturday - Review

Sunday - Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

Hebrews 2-6

Week Ten

Hebrews 2 Christ is Superior to the Angels.

The book of Hebrews has six warning passages or admonitions which we shall view as we walk thru Hebrews. The first one is found in the first 4 verses of Hebrews 2.

1. Hebrews 2:1-4 The author's concern is what is called "spiritual drifting." Drifting is like a piece of wood floating in a stream, simply going along with the current.

As a Christian, it is dangerous to simply drift, that is to drift away from Jesus and your faith. Christians do not drift too Jesus, we drift away. What kinds of things must we pay close attention to if we are to avoid the peril of drifting?

2. In verse 2, the word spoken by the angels was the law according to 1st century Judaism.
3. In verse 3 we find a question which one person said, even God does not have an answer for. The non-believing drifter is one who is simply drifting along, expecting that maybe he or she will receive Christ in the next day or so. Just not right now. They believe that they have plenty of time, but like a boat drifting in a river, when an unexpected falls comes, there is no turning back and the boat goes over the falls to the peril of its passenger. Spiritually a person neglects receiving Christ as their savior until it is too late. Death takes them before they are ready. Drifting and death have robbed him of eternal life.

The drifter need not be an unbeliever. It may be a Christian who says tomorrow I will serve the Lord. I am busy today. But time slips by, he has been drifting as a believer and when Jesus comes he finds that he is not really ready. (See John 2:28)

According to this passage, who was the first to give the message of salvation? Who shared the message next according to this passage? How was the message confirmed? What is our responsibility concerning the message of salvation?

4. In verses 5-8, the world to come, or the inhabited earth to come is most likely the millennial kingdom. During the thousand year reign, the angels will not reign, but King Jesus will reign and the saints with Him.
5. In verse 6-8, the man is Christ Jesus. He was higher than the angels, but then He took the form of man at his physical birth and made himself now, a little lower than the angels.

In verse 7, a little while means only a short time.

Where is Christ in relationship to the order of all things today?

6. Explain Hebrews 2:9-10 in your own words.

7. Hebrews 2:11, sanctify means to be set apart. There are two types of sanctification in the Bible. One is progressive sanctification. We are progressively set apart, growing in our relationship with God. It has to do with our on-going spiritual growth, that is, becoming more like Jesus.

There is also positional sanctification. It took place at the point of our salvation. I have been set apart for God. I am His, point action, complete. It is a finished fact.

Based on the preceding verses, explain the meaning of verses 12-13.

Hebrews 2:14-18

8. According to verse 14, explain how Jesus rendered the Devil powerless. How does that make you feel?

9. What did Jesus do for those who were subject to death? (Verse 15) Is death something you fear?

10. Why does it say Jesus did not give help to the angels in verse 16? Who are the descendants of Abraham?

11. Why was it necessary for Jesus to become a man according to verse 17? What does it mean that He is our high priest?

12. According to verse 18, Jesus was tempted as we are tempted. If Jesus was tempted, was it possible for Him to sin? Why or why not? So, how does He come to the aid of those who are tempted?

Hebrews 3 Christ is Superior to Moses

In Hebrews 1:1-4, Jesus is shown to be superior to the Old Testament prophets. In Hebrews 1:5-2:18, it is demonstrated that He is superior to the angels.

As we move into Hebrews 3:1-6 we find that Jesus was also superior to Moses. For the Jew, of the Jewish fathers, only Abraham may have been considered superior to Moses. Moses was the one who received the law from God and gave it to the nation of Israel.

1. Hebrews 3:1 - Holy Brothers means that the recipient of the letter were Christians.

Their confession or profession spoke to their belief in Jesus Christ. As an apostle it simply means that Jesus was one sent out from God. He came from the Father to bring salvation. As high priest Jesus was an intercessor between man and God. The apostle brings God's message down to man. The high priest takes man's message or response up to God.

What an amazing statement concerning the role of Jesus between God and man, and man and God!

Consider means to fix your attention on something attentively. Fix your mind on Jesus! Fix your mind on the truth as presented here. Do not drift!!!

2. Hebrews 3:2. Who appointed Jesus? In whose house, was Moses faithful?
3. Hebrews 3:3-6 If both Christ and Moses were faithful, why was Jesus considered superior to Moses?

Warning #1 Hebrews 2:1-4 Don't drift!

Warning #2 Hebrews 3:7-19 Beware of unbelief!

4. Hebrews 3:7-11 - Who was the author speaking of in this quote from Psalm 95:7-11? What was the result of the peoples' unbelief?
5. According to verses 12-13, what is to be our responsibility to one another? What are some ways we can do this?
6. In verses 14-15, what are we warned against doing?
7. Hebrews 3:16-19 What was the result of unbelief for the Israelites?

What might this warning mean for us today? Explain.

Hebrews 4 Christ is superior to Joshua – The believer's rest

1. According to verses 1-2, we all have rest available to us. This is God's salvation rest. What keeps some from not entering into God's rest?
2. Who will enter into God's rest? (verse 3)
3. What was it that God rested from on the seventh day according to verses 3-4?
4. What is it according to verse 6 that keeps some from entering into God's rest? What does that mean? Explain!
5. So, when is the day which we should enter into God's rest? (verse 7) Is there a better day than the one mentioned?

How does this relate to the warnings concerning drifting and unbelief?

6. According to verse 8, there is a second rest. The first rest is salvation rest, not needing to worry about working to be acceptable before God. This is rest from our works for salvation. The second rest is the rest we have as a result of trusting in living in obedience to God.

It is like Christian peace. 1) We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1) 2) But we have the peace of God when we bring our anxieties to Him in prayer with thanksgiving. (Philippians 4:6-7)

3) We will have a future Sabbath rest. Just as God entered His rest when he had completed His work of creation, so we will enter into a Sabbath rest when we have completed our work here on earth.

7. According to verses 10-11, what are we to do to prepare for our future Sabbath rest?
8. What do you learn about God's Word, the Bible in verse 12?

Describe how the Bible is like a two-edged sword.
Why is it important for us to study the Bible regularly?

The Word of God gives us an example or a standard for personal discernment.

9. After reading verse 13, can you think of anything in your life which might be hidden from God? Of which God is not aware?

Sometimes there may be things in our lives which we do not wish to divulge to anyone, not even God. Yet God knows all about them. Why not open up and seek his help, His forgiveness, His guidance. No matter what the issue may be. He already knows all about it anyway.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Jesus, our great High Priest!!!

Jesus is our great High Priest because:

1. He is the Son of God – He is divine
2. He is in Heaven – He has access to the Father
3. He can sympathize with us, since as a human he has experienced the same kind of temptations we do, yet he never sinned!

Because of these things:

4. I can approach the throne of grace with all confidence.
5. I can find mercy and grace in Him in the time of my need! (That is fantastic!!!)

Hebrews 5 Jesus Christ - The perfect High Priest

1. What were two qualifications for a high priest according to verses 1 and 4?
2. According to the first verse, what was the high priest's role?
3. According to verses 2-3 what makes the high priest an effective minister on behalf of the people? How does this relate to Jesus as our High Priest in Hebrews 4:15?
4. In verses 5-10, Christ fulfilled the two qualifications for a high priest.
5. In verse 8 it says that Jesus learned obedience. How did He do that? Or what does that mean for Jesus to learn obedience?
6. What was it that made Christ perfect, or complete in verse 9? What does it mean to say that Christ was made perfect? Wasn't He perfect already?

What was the result or benefit of His perfection for us?

7. Notice in verses 6 and 10 that Jesus is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

We will learn more of Melchizedek in Chapter 7, but for now, Jesus was not of the tribe of Levi, but he was of the tribe of Judah. All the priests of Israel were of the tribe of Levi. Therefore, Jesus was not qualified to be a priest of the order of Aaron. All of the priests of Aaron's line had sinned and had to offer sacrifices not only for the people but for themselves as well. Jesus never sinned. All the priests of Aaron's line died. Jesus also died, but then He rose from the grave. Aaron's priesthood lasted only as long he lived, as was the case of the high priests that followed him. Christ, our high priest will be our high priest throughout eternity.

8. Hebrews 5:11-14

According to verse 11, what was the problem with the Jewish believers? What does that mean? Do people suffer from this malady today?

Explain what was taking place according to verses 12-13. Is this a problem in today's Californian church? Explain your answer.

According to verse 14, what was the evidence of a spiritually mature believer?

Hebrews 6 - Be careful not to fall away

We find the third major warning in Hebrews 5:11-6:20.

Warning #1 - Don't Drift - Pay attention to God's Word

Warning #2 - Beware of Doubting

Warning #3 - Beware of not Growing

This is considered to be an extremely difficult passage to interpret. As we look at it, I would remind you that all scriptural interpretation should take into account the immediate and general context of the Bible. Scripture interprets scripture, scripture will not contradict scripture.

1. Verse one encourages the readers to grow up and don't go back to the beginning or elementary principles of their faith. If you have the basics down, the foundation of your faith, then move on. Don't just keep dwelling on the basics.

If you are saved, don't think you must be saved over and over again. God says, once is enough.

2. Verse 2 is about legalistic rules, probably of Judaism. Elementary teachings of the faith.

If you are building a house, you don't keep building the foundation over and over again. Once the foundation is laid, you begin to build the structure of the house above it.

What elementary Christian principles might Christians become involved in which keep them from moving on to maturity?

3. Hebrews 6:4-6 There are several possible interpretations of this passage. First let us look at the principles laid out here.

- The person has been enlightened
- They have tasted the heavenly gift
- They are partakers of the Holy Spirit
- They have tasted the good Word of God
- And the powers of the age to come.

Then after having experienced all of that, they have fallen away.

Then it is impossible to renew them again to repentance.

Because they crucify to themselves again the Son of God.

Let's investigate some of the possible interpretations.

1. The person was saved, but he has now lost his salvation

This interpretation has three problems.

1. Salvation is not ours to lose. By definition, it is eternal. If it can be lost, it is not eternal.
2. The Bible is clear that we cannot lose our salvation. We are kept secure by the triune God. (See John 1:28-29; Romans 8:35, 38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14)
3. Most of those who believe that you can lose your salvation also believe that you can be saved again. Verse 6 would have us believe that once we had lost our salvation, it would be impossible to be restored to a relationship with Jesus Christ again. The loss would be permanent.

2. Others believe that it is not about a Christian at all. They appeared to believe but, in reality, they had never truly committed their life to Christ. Even after seeing and even experiencing much of the joy of the Christian life, they choose not to receive Christ.

This passage does not seem to be about people who almost receive Christ, but about those who have truly been saved.

3. Others see this as a hypothetical warning. The operative word would be “IF”. The warning is that “if” a person had experienced all of those things, and then fallen away, then he could not be restored to his or her salvation. A person could not lose their salvation, but “if” they could, then they would be lost and not be able to be restored to their salvation.

The warning is hypothetical based on the big “IF.”

4. The fourth possible interpretation is one I found in a commentary by J. Vern McGee, so it is certainly not original with me.

The individuals which are the subject of the warning are Christians. They are enlightened, they are partakers of the Holy Spirit. As such, I believe they must be Christians, believers.

However, after experiencing the goodness of God, they have fallen away, turned from God.

The passage says at that point it is impossible to renew them to repentance. Repentance, not salvation. Salvation is secure as we saw in the passages cited with the first interpretation. God is faithful even when we are not!!!

For the Jews, they may have gone back or were about ready to go back to their old Jewish religious practices and sacrifices, ignoring the fact that Jesus had already gone to the cross and paid the penalty for their sin. They had not lost their salvation, only their close walk with God. They live as if they are not Christians.

By turning their back on their Lord, they forfeit their heavenly rewards.

- v. 7 The ground in the verse 7 is like the Christian life. It drinks in the fresh rain and produces a bumper crop of good produce. The Christian who remains faithful reading the Bible and applying its principles to their life will also produce much fruit and when they get to Heaven will be rewarded accordingly. (See I Corinthians 3:10-15; II Corinthians 5:10)
- v. 8 The ground in verse 8 had the potential for a good crop, but instead it produced only weeds and thistles. The crop is worthless. The ground is close to being cursed, but not

totally lost, and it is burned. The believer who has fallen away and rejected Christ produces no fruit of value. Their works according to I Corinthians will be tested as if by fire. All that is consumed by the fire will be gone, there will be no reward. Their reward has been lost.

The individual is saved through the fire, but all he has is gone. He could not even be renewed to repentance.

If this interpretation is right, then loss of salvation is not the issue, but rather the loss of reward and a wasted Christian life. Be careful not to fall away, to drift, or to fail to believe.

How very, very sad!

4. What is the author's commendation to his readers in verses 9-10?
5. So, what does the author encourage them to do according to verses 11-12?

How do you relate personally to verses 9-12?

6. What are the two unchangeable things we read about in verse 18 which make it impossible for God to lie?

How might these things be a comfort to each of us?