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# Bill Brinkworth

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# A Spoonful Of Hebrews

By Bill Brinkworth

All quoted scripture is from the King James Bible.

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# In Dedication

I dedicate this work to the cause of Christ, and thank Him for all His help. I also want to thank all the pastors and Christians He has used to help me develop a love for His Word. I pray that more will read, believe, and obey these preserved words from God.

I also am indebted to my wonderful wife for her help in putting this piece together. Without her editing, contributing thoughts for the day, being my living concordance, and her encouragement, this booklet would not have been possible. Thank you, Barbara Ann.

# Purpose

One of the most life-changing and lifeguiding influences any person can have is reading the Word of God. Within its pages the reader will find God's words on how to live; how to die; who to have as friends; how to get to heaven; how to have an exciting, successful life; how to please God; how to know God's plan for your life, and hosts of other important revelations. Yet, as valuable as the Bible's contents are, too few read its preserved words and advice.

In an attempt to get more to read the Bible and understand it, I have created this short, devotional series. Although there are many daily devotionals available, this one is different. Most other devotionals have a short, uplifting paragraph or two to bless the reader, several verses, and a recommended reading for the day.

The "Spoonful Devotional" encourages the reader to read at least one chapter a day. A chapter from the King James Bible is included in the day's reading. No matter how busy one's life, if it is a priority to know God's will and way, all should be able read one chapter of the King James Bible in this devotional.

To help more understand what the Bible teaches, there is a short commentary included explaining one principle taught from the day's chapter. It may not necessarily be the most important doctrine taught in that chapter, but it is a teaching from the day's reading. After reading each brief explanation and the Scripture, one will certainly have more of an understanding of the Word of God, when the book is finished.

After completing this book, the reader will have learned several biblical doctrines. The one thing I have noticed, since being a Christian, is that many Christians do not have a knowledge of biblical teachings. Many have only a basic knowledge of God's Word that they may have gotten out of a church service, or another souce rather than their own reading and studying. Some just assume they know what the Bible says, or what they think is right or wrong. It is God's Word, and it is up to us to read, study it, and learn what God has preserved for us to learn.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15 Unfortunately, many today are not big readers. That may be why so few have not read the entire Word of God. To help those type of readers still glean principles from God's Word, I have kept all discussions of the chapters' contents short — usually from 300-800 words. Because of these size restraints, much of what is discussed is very brief.

Also, to be helpful, a short "Thought for the Day" is included. The quote is one short quip, which may encourage one to contemplate what was taught in the commentary for the day's reading.

Prior to reading of the day's chapter, there are a few words, and phrases, that should be understood when reading the Word of God. This short list is not intended to be a dictionary, but an attempt to define some words that may be used differently in the reading than what is commonly understood today.

After each reading there are short exercises, or puzzles to help the readers comprehend some of what they have just read. The answers to the questions are found at the back of the book.

The size of the devotional is larger for a reason. In hopes that more will read and study the Bible, I have designed it so a Sunday school teacher, pastor, classroom teacher, or any ministry that is encouraging their people to study the Bible, will make copies of the lesson and freely distribute them. It can be copied on normal 8 x 11.5" paper on a copy machine or printed out on a computer printer. The graphics in most lessons are black and white, so they will print well on non-commercial, monochrome printing devices. I am giving the purchaser of this devotional permission to make as many copies as they can use, and hand out to their people.

This world is changing for the worse — on a daily basis. If more knew, believed, and obeyed the words of God there would be less decline in morality, less sin, and more godly living. I have made an attempt to portion biblical doctrine in small palatable portions so more would read it.

Is God's Word important to you? Have you always wanted to read it, but never "got around to it"? Well, here is an opportunity for you to read and learn more about the Bible — one small "spoonful" a day!

# Daily Nugget:

In Paul's letter to the Hebrews, he started off telling them who Jesus is. There are at least thirteen points he made about the Saviour, including:

- 1. Jesus was there at creation with the Father (vss. 1, 10). He made the worlds (vss. 2, 10).
- 2. God has spoken to people through His Son, Jesus (vs. 2).
- 3. Jesus is heir of all things (vss. 2, 4).
- 4. Jesus is the brightness of God's glory (vs. 3).
- Jesus is the express ( to show by resemblance or copy) image of God (vs. 3).
- 6. Jesus upholds (elevates) all things by His word (vs. 3).
- 7. Jesus purged us of our sins (vs. 3).

# Today's Thought:

"If you want to be more like the Father, follow His Son."

# Words to Understand:

divers: different sundry: more than one vesture: clothing

# Today's Reading:

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

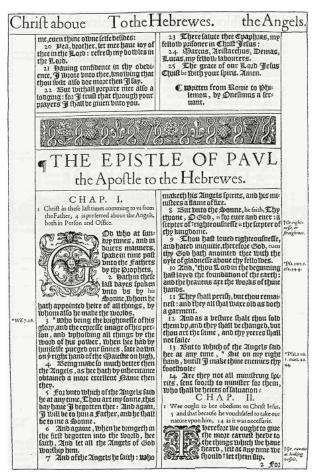
4  $\P$  Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten

- 8. Jesus has finished what He was sent to do (vs. 3).
- 9. Jesus is sitting at the right hand of His Father (vs. 3). God honors His son (vs. 9).
- 10. Jesus is better than the angels (vss. 4, 5, 6, 13).
- 11. Jesus' throne is forever (vs. 8).
- 12. Jesus loves righteousness and hates sin (vs. 9).
- 13. Jesus will never change (vss. 11-13).

Jesus was not just a good man, as some cults portray Him. He is God in the flesh and God's son at the same time. To deny Jesus is God in the flesh, one would have to deny most of this chapter, and many other scriptures.



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into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.
7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.
9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:
11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.
13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

- 1. What is one way God spoke to the Old Testament Jews?
- 2. Other than believers, who else is to worship Jesus?
- 3. What is one ministry of angels, as described in this chapter?\_\_\_\_\_

# Daily Rugget:

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so <u>great</u> <u>salvation</u>: which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;" (vs. 3)

Many have heard the plan of salvation again and again. It has been heard so often by many, that it has lost its power and importance to them. It has been, for multitudes, commonplace and taken for granted. Too many have lost the wonder they once had when they first heard God's



messge to them and learned what it meant. However, it still is a GREAT salvation!

- Salvation is great because of what it does. It is the only way any person will avoid seeing hell. Our good works and deeds, religious rituals, or clean living will not pluck us from hell's everlasting torment. Only the salvation offered by God will save us from hell.
- Salvation is great because it has saved countless souls. Billions have trusted in Christ's finished work on the cross to pay for their sins and have been saved!
- Salvation is great because of its cost. The cost of salvation was so expensive it could only have been paid by the shed blood of God's only son, Jesus. No man's good works, kindness,

or own attempts to please God are enough to pay for salvation. The only acceptable price was paid for by Jesus' blood shed on Calvary's cross.

¥0 Salvation has changed lives. Not only does one who trusts Christ for salvation spend eternity with Him, but he can have a changed life. When one is saved and obeys God's commandments, God will change his life. Adulterers have been saved, and their marriages reconciled; and the sin halted. Meanspirited brawlers have been changed from the inside out, and now are calm, peaceable men. Drunks and addicted people have now had their lives healed and are free from what previously controlled their lives. Saved people still are not perfect, but they are not the people they were before they were saved. God will transform a life, if He is obeyed!

Salvation is the greatest proof of how much God loves us! As much as we have let God down, and deliberately sinned against Him, He still loves us. He loves us so much that He allowed His only Son, Jesus, to die for us. That death is the means to pay for the sins of all who call upon Jesus as Saviour.

Salvation should not be hum-drum to any, especially to those that have been saved. It is a GREAT salvation.

# Today's Thought: <u>G</u>od's <u>R</u>iches <u>At</u> <u>C</u>hrist's <u>Expense</u>

#### Words to Understand:

brethren: those that are saved sanctified: cleansed; purified succour: help, especially in time of need

# Today's Reading:

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

5 ¶ For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10  $\P$  For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. 14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

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Find words from Hebrews 2:3a: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; ... "

# Daily Rugget:

One of the most dangerous conditions for anyone to have, Christian or non-Christian, is mentioned in this chapter. That condition is having one's heart hardened (vs. 8). It is not referring to a problem with one's physical heart. It is referring to the spiritual part of a person that has determined not to do what God had urged it to do. By refusing to do what God has shown it to do, it is directly disobeying God — a most serious situation!

To make it clear to the He-

brews, Paul reminded them what hardheartedness had cost their forefathers in the wilderness. While in the wilderness, the Jews had a wonderful opportunity to follow God to a land He had reserved for them. By day, God led them in His direction by going before them in a column of cloud that stretched from heaven to earth. When it moved, they moved. When it stopped, they stopped. At night, it changed to a column of fire. Although they had many proofs of God's helping them, they still doubted. Unbelief, the root cause of hard-heartedness (vs. 12), crept into their thoughts, and they doubted God.

This provoked God (vs. 8) and caused the Israelites to have many trials and tribulations. They missed many of the blessings they could



have had because their hearts were fixed not to believe or trust God. Because of their hardened hearts a possibly six-day march to the land God had prepared for them took 40 years. None of the hard-hearted people ever got to see the promised land, although their off-spring did. Their hearts of unbelief cost them so much.

A hard-hearted condition can just as easily be obtained today, as it was then. When God shows a person what salvation is, and that they should trust Christ as Saviour today; they are hardening their heart when they postpone the decision after hearing the invitation. When their

heart is shown to do something, such as being saved, faithful in church attendance, praying, reading their Bible, tithing, or telling others about salvation; their not doing it is a direct refusal to God. Even slow obedience to a command, or justification in not doing as they are shown, is still unbelief and distrust.

Five times (in vss. 7, 12, 13, 4:7) Paul mentioned the key to not having a hardened heart. The key is "today". When God shows you something or quietly speaks to your heart in conviction, it is imperative that you obey Him then! Not tomorrow! Not later! It should not be open to debate! Doing it when we want, and not when He commands, is a step in hardening one's spiritual heart.

### Today's Thought:

Slow obedience is no obedience.

#### Words to Understand:

exhort: encourage

"in the provocation": the days that the Jews struggled with following God while in the wilderness after leaving Egypt

#### Today's Reading:

1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.

5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

7 ¶ Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

- 1. Who was considered worthy of more honor than Moses (vs. 3)?
- 2. What does it mean to "harden" one's heart?

3. Name one thing that can cause one's heart to be "hardened".

Daily Nugget:

Most know what it is like not to have rest. The constant working and daily activity can leave us tattered, harried, nervous, and

without the peace we normally would have. The

nine "rest"s mentioned in this chapter (found in vss. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11) are speaking of a similar feeling one can experience when one does without another type of rest. In most of the references it is referring to a spiritual rest one has when they have done what the Holy Spirit had shown them to do. They no longer feel convicted, guilty, or oppressed by their conscience.

The rests referred to in this chapter are:

- the rest God took after He created all in our universe (vs. 4),
- the rest one has when they are saved and have peace within their spiritual hearts,
- and the eternal rest all believers will one day have when they spend eternity with Jesus (vs. 9, 10).

Until a believer goes to his eternal rest, he is to work to please God. The "guidebook" to lead one through a life that pleases God is the Word of God, our Bible. This book is not just any book. It has all God wants us to know. It is preserved, and pure, and exactly how He dictated it

# Today's Thought:

If God said it, that settles it; whether I believe it or not!

#### Mords to Understand:

asunder: divided; separated; in pieces "foundation of the world": when the world was created wrath: anger

to the men that penned it. It is the only recorded means we have of knowing the mind and will of God.

Here are five of the reasons the Word of God should be relied on and trusted; as we prepare for our eternal rest:

- It is "quick". "Quick" means living. It is not a dead book. It is the living Word of God! It will direct us in His paths!
- It is powerful. No other book ever written has convicted and changed lives as the Word of God has done. It can change us into the Christian God desires us to be.
- It is sharp. No matter how tough an individual is, its cutting words can speak the truth to any man's conscience and soul. Its truths will expose the real "us".
- It pierces. It can pierce through the outer hardness of any man and speak to their inner soul. Obeying it will help make us a new creature in Christ.
- It helps one discern truth from lies. It exposes falsehood, and shows the real truths as God sees them.

The only way anyone will have rest in this life, and in the one to come, is to follow the guidance of God's Word. Obedience to it is the "secret" to living a successful, restful Christian life.

# Todays's Reading:

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. How can one have spiritual rest ?

2. What is the "example of unbelief"?

3. Who is our great high priest? \_\_\_\_\_

### Daily Rugget:

During Old Testament times, there were priests that served as mediators between God and man presenting their prayers and sacrifices to Him. Before Moses, the priests' duties were often done by the head of a household as did Job, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. During Moses' day God appointed priests from the Levite lineage, and this practice was intended to continue until the perfect priest came, Jesus Christ.

The old testament priests were not perfect. Their limitations were because:

- We They were ordained ("appointed by") by men, although they were of an ancestry ordered by God (vs. 1). Not just any man could be a priest.
- They had to go to God with sacrifices and gifts (vss. 1, 3). The offerings were not a one-time gift. They had to be offered more than once. They were only temporary appeasements to a Holy God.
- The priests themselves were sinners. They also had to give an offering for themselves (vss. 2, 3).
- Soon the priesthood stopped. The sacrifices halted. Intercessory prayers and gifts to God ceased, but man was still in desperate need of a mediator between him and God.
- God then sent man the perfect priest. He was not appointed by man. He only had to make one offering for all of man's sins. That sacrifice covered sins past, present, and even into the

re fi

future. This priest was not of Levi's lineage. He was very much like a priest of Abraham's time — Melchisedec. Like Melchisedec, who's name means "king of righteousness", this Godappointed priest was the real King of righteousness. This priest was the only Godappointed priest. This priest was God's only begotten son —

Jesus! Jesus' one-time sacrifice, that never had to be re-offered, was His own life.

Unfortunately, many have not allowed God's High priest to be the sacrifice for their sins. Too many have rejected Jesus and are still appointing their own priests. No matter what those sincere people offer to God, it will be refused by the Creator. They are doing it their way and are refusing the one-time sacrifice Jesus made for them on Calvary's cross.

The Old Testament priesthood was for another time — a time before the perfect priest had been sent by God. Today we have the privilege of going to that High Priest, which is not sitting in some earthly temple or church, but is sitting at the right hand of the Father, in Heaven. We can accept His offering on the cross to cover all our sins. After we have accepted Him as our Saviour, we can go to Him anytime with our prayers and needs. We no longer need an imperfect middle man. We have the perfect mediator — Christ Jesus.

# Today's Thought:

"Jesus knew that He had come to kindle a fire on earth ... He saw that what was exalted among man was an abomination before God." — Walter Rauschenbush

#### Words to Understand:

begotten: to bring into existence; to procreate

"dull of hearing": Will not undersand. Much of the time it is not in reference to a hearing problem. ordained: appointed by

# Today's Reading:

1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10  $\P$  Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

- 1. Who was Aaron (vs. 4)?
- 2. Who was Melchisedec?\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What does it mean: "useth milk"?

## Daily Rugget:

In understanding this difficult chapter, it is important to understand one thing. "Therefore" in the beginning of verse one tells us it is continuing what was discussed in Chapter 5. That chapter ended after discussing those that were not growing in the things of God. Those people discussed previously should have been teachers (5:12), but instead were in dire need

of the basics. In this chapter it is talking about those people that had spiritualgrowth problems.

The group of people this letter addresses, were not growing in "perfection" (vs. 1). "Perfection" here is not saying that we can be perfect; as none can, just forgiven. However, these people were not moving on and understanding other spiritual things. They were not improving or "perfecting" themselves spiritually.

They were "stuck" in some of the things they had learned in Judaism. They were:

- Not turning from their "dead works" (vs. 1) — the traditions and Levitical rites that were no longer for the church age they were living in at the time. They were not fully trusting in what Christ had done for them and did not have the faith they should have had (vs. 1).
- Trusting in the washings (baptism<u>s</u>) performed by the Levitical priests. It is not talking about the water baptism of a believer after they are saved, but what was performed by the priest in the temple.

- Trusting in an act done by a Levitical priest when he laid his hands on a sacrificial animal and killed it or set it free (Lev. 16:21). They were not trusting on the one time sacrificial offering of Christ to cleanse their sins.
- Looking forward to the general resurrection of the dead (Job 19:25-27, John 11:24) taught by Judaism, not the one revealed to us after Jesus came.
- Looking forward to an "eternal judgment" taught by Judaism at the time, and not what is taught in the New Testament.

Although this chapter is directed to Jews adhering to what they had always been taught, it has application for many today. There are many today that have been involved in a religion, or even a denomination calling itself Christian. They accept a "little bit" about Jesus; that He died for them, and that He rose again, but they are not fully trusting in Christ for salvation. They are somewhat "enlightened" (verse 4); and even though they have had the privilege to "taste" a little bit of "Christianity", they are still holding on to what they had previously believed.

The Bible says it is impossible (verse 4) for them to be renewed "unto repentance" (vs. 4). There is only one way to Heaven, and that is God's way. No one will get there by hanging onto both what they believe and a little of the Gospel. The only way to go to Heaven is to trust 100% in what Christ has done on the cross. That means unscriptural church or denominational teachings, unbiblical traditions, or anything else that is not wholly relying on what God has told us to believe by faith must be discarded! Jesus is the only way — plus nothing, and minus anything!

### Today's Thought:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" I Timothy 2:5

#### Mords to Understand:

consolation: comforting

immutability: inability to change

"laying on of hands": when elders of the church, ministers, or apostles were used, by the Spirit of God, to heal a person just by touching them.

repentance: a genuine sorrow for doing something wrong or sinful. This sorrow and grief are strong enough to drive the person to do their best not to commit that wrongful act again.

sware: promise; make a pledge

### Today's Reading:

1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

2 *Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.* 

3 And this will we do, if God permit.

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

9  $\P$  But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. When God made a promise to Abraham, by whose name did he swear?

2. What two things are impossible for God to do?

#### Daily Rugget:

This chapter continues to explain why Jesus is the "better" high priest. This epistle (letter) was

addressed to Hebrews who were quite familiar with the Old Testament priesthood. In language they could understand, Paul continues to compare (also in Heb. 5) the priesthood of a certain priest, Melchisedec, to the current High Priest, Jesus.

Bible students would call this relationship of the priest in the past to Jesus, as a

"type". The earlier Melchisedec gave the Jews of his era an idea of who the upcoming Jesus would be, and what He would do.

Melchisedec was a high priest before the Levitical priesthood was established. When Abraham was returning from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer (Gen. 14:17-19), Melchisedec met him and gave Abraham bread, wine, and blessed him. In return, Abraham gave the priest his tithes.

Here are some of the similarities between Melchisedec and Jesus:

- Melchisedec was a high priest. Jesus is our high priest.
- Melchisedec means "king of righteousness". He was also the king of Salem. Most believe Salem to be Jerusalem (Ps. 76:2).
  - Jesus is the King of Righteousness.
- Melchisedec went to Abraham.



Jesus came to us when He came to this earth and died on the Cross for our sins.

Melchisedec blessed Abraham.

Jesus blesses those that accept Him.

Melchisedec has no recorded genealogy. According to the Bible, he had no father, or mother, or beginning (vs. 3). All the other Levitical priests had to prove they were descended from the tribe of Levi. Melchisedec did not come from the Levites (vs. 11).

Jesus had no beginning or ending. His genealogy is not from the tribe of Levi. His only genealogy is that He is God's only Son.

- Melchisedec was given tithes. Jesus should be given our tithes.
- Melchisedec was the king of Salem. He was also the king of peace (vs. 2). Jesus will one day be our King ruling from Jerusalem, and He is our King of Peace.

The similarities between Melchisedec and Jesus are not a coincidence. They show that God had planned for thousands of years to send Christ to this earth. All throughout history He showed mankind what the Saviour would do, say, and even where He would go, and where He would be born. Some saw the similarities and quickly accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Others did not. Is He just a man to you, or is Jesus your High Priest?

# Today's Thought:

A coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

#### Mords to Understand:

consecrated: separated from a worldly to a holy purpose; dedicated to service and worshipping of God disannulling: to nullify; to annul; to get rid of tithe: one tenth of earnings that belong to the Lord. similitude: similar to; much like

### Today's Reading:

1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

 $\overline{5}$  And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. 9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

11 ¶ If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What did Abraham give Melchisedec?\_\_\_\_

2. From what tribe of Israel did Jesus' earthly ancestry come?

### Daily Nugget:



In this chapter, Paul gives the Hebrew believers five more reasons why Christ is the better High Priest:

- 1. Christ, our High Priest is sitting. No Levitical priest ever sat, because their work was never done. There were no chairs in the tabernacle or temple. Here, our Priest's onetime sacrifice is complete, and Jesus is seated (vs. 1). Jesus' earthly ministry is finished!
- 2. Christ, our High Priest is at the right hand of the Father (vs. 1). No Old Testament priest ever saw God, let alone sat next to Him, as does Jesus.
- 3. Christ is the minister of the "sanctuary and of the true tabernacle" (vss. 2-4). All the Levitical priests ministered in a Godordered, but man-made tabernacle, and later a man-made temple. It was not perfect, al-

though created as God relayed its design to Moses (the tabernacle).

- 4. All the earlier Levitical priests ever did was present a "shadow", or picture, of heavenly things to come (vs. 5). Christ's ministry is not a picture of anything to come. It is the real thing!
- 5. Christ's ministry is a "more excellent ministry", than any earthly priest ever had. The Old Testament priests were representative of all people. They mediated with God for all the people; however not many had a direct audience with the priest. We as Christians, however, can have an audience with the perfect High Priest; no matter who we are.

Christ's ministry is "more excellent" because it comes with a "better covenant"; a better agreement between God and man. Although Paul sites the old covenant as faulted (vs. 7), it does not imply that God made a mistake with the old agreement. That agreement was good for that time, and met its purpose — to show man could not make a worthy sacrifice himself. The sacrifice had to be made by His perfect Son, Jesus!

This explanation of the past priests and our current Priest can help today's believer understand more of what Jesus did for him, and who He really is. He is the most "excellent" priest (vs. 6), with a ministry many throughout past ages have awaited.

### Today's Thought:

There are only two choices for salvation: do or done. The Bible says, "It is finished!"

#### Words to Understand:

admonished: taught, counseled correctly

covenenant: binding agreement. The "first covenenant" (vs. 7) referred to those agreements spoken about in the Old Testament

mediator: the representative of the people; the "middle man" between God and man sanctuary: refers to the place in the back of the tabernacle that only the High Priest could enter shadow: not the actual thing, but a picture (or example) of the thing

# Today's Reading:

1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

 $6 \$ *¶* But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

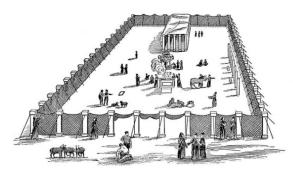
1. Who has a better ministry (vs. 6)?

2. Who is the current High Priest?

3. Where do we find the "new covenant" (vs. 13) today?

### Daily Rugget:

In his further writings to the Hebrews, Paul continues to address the worship they were familiar with before their salvation. Although this chapter continues about the priesthood, he also delved into examining the tabernacle.



The tabernacle was the first "church" the Jews built. When Moses was on the mountain with God and received the ten commandments, he also received instructions from God as to how to build the mobile center for worshipping God. The tent was only 45 feet long and 15 feet wide, but its furnishings pictured a one-day-to-come better worship. It pictured Christ.

Paul made it clear that this early place of worship was a glimpse of future things. At least six times the preacher used terminology indicating that even their forefathers were taught that their tabernacle worship was only temporary and was illustrating another worship that would one day come. Paul used words such as: "signifying" (vs. 8), "was not yet made manifest" (vs. 8), "figure" (vs. 9),"greater and more perfect tabernacle" (vs. 11), "patterns" (vs. 23), and "figures" (vs. 24).

All this effort God made to show early followers of Him what would come one day was to prepare them for the perfect "tabernacle" and "Priest". Yet, with all the symbolism, pictures, and types, many did not recognize Jesus when He did come.

To this day, many still do not recognize the fulfillment of God's many promises. There are those who still trust in the priesthood, ornate places of "worship", traditions, and many practices that were only for a short, temporary time, and certainly not for today. A perfect way to truly worship God is available, but too many would rather worship the way they feel is right, rather than accept the way God is now demanding. They will miss all God has planned for them, because they will not accept that Christ did it all for them!

# Today's Thought:

Move from the shadow (symbols) to the substance (the Son).

#### Words to Understand:

cherubim: a created creature that flies with its two wings. It is not an angel, but a different creature. ordinances: requirements, laws

testator: a person who leaves a will (testament) for after his death transgressions: sins

### Today's Reading:

1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. 2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; 5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. 6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

8  $\P$  The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building:

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15  $\P$  And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

23 ¶ It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What were the four pieces of furniture found inside the tabernacle according to verses 2-4?



Golden Candlestick

### Daily Nugget:

For the early Hebrews, and those that still do not understand what Paul had said about the practice of the Mosiac law in earlier times being a glimpse of a futuristic better worship, one more word was used to describe that time. Paul describes that practice as a "shadow" of good things to come (vs. 1).

When a person approaches you in the dusk of a fall evening, and is several hundred feet away, he is but a shadow. One can see that it is a person approaching, but the details of what the person looks like, and what he is wearing cannot be made out. This is how those practicing the Mosaic laws saw the future worship, as a distant shadow. They could see the furniture of the temple worship, the priest, and all the sacrifices. They knew they stood for something and were somehow prophetic, but they did not grasp their whole meaning until Christ came. Then many saw clearly what God had planned to show them for a long time.

They knew their sacrifices were not enough to take away their sins (vss. 4, 11) permanently,

even as they were offering them. If the sacrifices could have taken away their sins, they would have had no more concern (guilt) for them (vs. 2). If the sacrifices could have taken away their sins permanently, they would not have had to repeat the sacrifices each year (vs. 3). They also knew that the offered blood of bulls and of goats did not take away sins (vs. 4).

So if deep in their hearts they knew that their offerings were not permanent and were only picturing a future way of worshipping, why did they annually offer those sacrifices to the Lord? The Hebrews performed the worship as they were instructed to. They were obedient. Their obedience was much like "credit", as Oliver B Greene describes it. When Jesus came and sacrificed His life for all mankind's sin, He paid man's sin debt in full (John 1:29)! The Old Testament saints' sins were paid for, and all after them also. We have a perfect sacrifice when we accept Jesus' offering. He paid it all on Calvary's cross!

### Today's Thought:

Those saved before Jesus' sacrifice looked forward by faith to the cross. Those saved after His sacrifice looked back by faith to the cross.

#### Words to Understand:

adversaries: enemies gazingstock: a person looked at with contempt perdition: eternal misery remission: forgiveness

# Today's Reading:

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 ¶ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

19 ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

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

32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Understandest thou what thou readest?

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Find the words for Hebrews 10:4:

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of

goats should take away sins."

#### Daily Rugget

Beginning in Hebrews 10:38 and continuing throughout this chapter, Paul writes about another important spiritual concept that the Hebrews needed to understand. He wrote about faith. This concept was also prevalent throughout Old Testament times, and should also have been recognized by the Hebrews.

Verse one gives the best

definition of what faith really is: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. Faith is what one has when he is convinced that, without sight or visual proof, what he is desiring will come to fruition. Those with faith know what they require will happen! The expectation is so great that it is almost "substance".

Much of the chapter gives highlights from the lives of believers the Hebrews would have known, and how faith was the driving force behind what they accomplished. Over nineteen Old Testament saints were cited in "God's Hall of Faith" for their great faith in their mighty God. Three examples of the faith of Abraham (vss. 8, 9, 17), four from Moses (vss. 24, 27-29) were in the list, as were those of Abel, Enoch, Noah, and many others.



Not only were some of the accomplishments of noted saints specifically mentioned, but also general references to other heroic steps of faith by others. "Prophets" in general were cited for their faith (vs. 32). Also unnamed heroes of the faith that would not move from righteousness, but hung onto their faith even unto their death were also listed in verses 33-37. Many of the unnamed may have been known by those Paul wrote to; as many Christians were facing persecution and still would not waiver in their faith, even at the cost of their lives.

Faith is the crucial thread that runs from the earliest believers, throughout the Old and New Testaments, and even today. We can do all kinds of things that we may think please God. Some are even convinced that their good intentions and works are enough to please Him. Without faith, verse six says, "... it is impossible to please him..." The one thing that all believers <u>must have</u>, if they want to please God, is to have uncompromising, unwaivering, unrelenting faith in their heavenly Father — whatever He requires of them!

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

### Today's Thought:

"Faith is firm persuasion and expectation, knowing that God will perform all that He has promised to the believer in Christ; and this persuasion is so strong and complete that it assures the believer of possession, even now, of those things for which he exercises faith ... Faith does not look to God with a cold heart and clouded thoughts concerning things to come." — Oliver B. Greene

#### Words to Understand:

asunder: divided in pieces, separated esteeming: putting value to, to prize sojourned: lived in a place translated: moved from one place to another

# Today's Reading:

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

 $4 \$ *¶* By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

What is faith?		
Without	it is impossible to please God.	
What is is Noah noted for	doing that showed great faith?	

### Daily Rugget:

Every Christian, at one time or the other, contemplates why they are going through such trials and tribulations. Nowhere in the Word of God does it say that life will be easy once one is saved; although we do have much more godly protection. Actually, after salvation, life may be harder. That may be why so many "quit" their attempts to live godly.

The end of the previous chapter listed many that lost their lives for their faith, but the trials most of us face are nothing like they faced (vs. 4). Even the perfect Son of God faced trials imposed by others of far inferior spiritual standing than He (vs. 3). We should not be surprised when hard times do come our way.

However, some of the "hard times" many face are self-induced. Often the problems experienced are the side effects of one's own sin. Other times our tribulations are the result of one's Heavenly Father disciplining him for straying from the path He desired him to take.

Those that utter, "I can't understand how a God of love could punish His own children!" certainly do not know the God of the Bible. If our earthly fathers discipline us (vss. 7, 9), or at least they should at times, we should expect correction from our spiritual Father when we step out of line. Despite what socially "corrected" people think, one who loves his children should discipline them when they are not doing right. God loves His own children and certainly will correct them when they do wrong. *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Heb.* 12:6

Sometimes there are ones who say, "Well, God has never disciplined me!"

Well, I do not know you, but I do know that even if you are saved, you still are not perfect (Romans 3:23). You may be forgiven, but you still sin. If you sin, and you are one of God's children, He will deal with your sin. No one gets away with any sin!

There would be a real serious situation if you claim you are saved, but still insist that God has never disciplined you when you have gotten involved in sin. It may be either your discipline is on its way, or you may not even be saved! A good earthly farther may discipline his own children, but he would not correct the neighbor's children. Likewise, God only corrects His own.

"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." Heb. 12:8

No one likes to be corrected, and since NO ONE gets away with sin, there is a simple solution to avoid consequences; flee sin! Keep as far away from it as is possible!

#### Today's Thought:

For those that say, "A lot of people get away with sin", then I have a question for you. Why are the jails so full, divorces so high, people so unhappy, and hell at near capacity? Those situations are not because everyone sat around and practiced what they read in their Bible!

#### Words to Understand:

chastening: discipline, correction fornicator: sexual sin usually between unmarried partners scourgeth: heavily diciplines, corrects, punishes, whips

### Today's Reading:

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 ¶ Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

18  $\P$  For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. If one can be involved in sin without chastisement from God, what could that indicate?

<sup>2.</sup> As a New Testament era believer, where does our faith originate from?

# Hebrews 13

## Daily Rugget:

In closing his letter to the Hebrew Christians, Paul left them with eight pieces of advice dealing with a Christian's social duties. They were: To love other Christians (vs.

- To love other Christians (vs. 1).
- To be nice to strangers, especially because we have no idea, that when we do, we may be entertaining

angels (vs. 1). This informs a Bible reader that angels are real, and that we may come in contact with them more often than we realize. Because we may entertain them "unawares", the art depicting them with wings and halos is not accurate. If they had those features, we would definitely be able to distinguish them from other people. However, if they looked like normal men, we would never know if we had communicated with them "unawares". You may even come in contact with an angel today!

To be concerned about the difficulties others are going through, as if they were your own trials (vs. 3).



To remember marriage is the "honourable" thing; whereas adultery and fornication are not (vs. 4).

To be content with what you have and not to covet what others have (vs. 5).

To be respectful and obey those that have leadership responsibilities over you in your church (vss. 7, 17). It is the preachers, teachers, and other church leaders that God uses to minister to us. They have to answer to God for how they lead those under them. The least we can do is obey their leadership.

To not fall for false doctrine that is heard (vs. 9). Study the Scriptures and evaluate if what you are hearing is taught in the Word of God. If it is not, stay with what the Word of God teaches!

Paul felt this advice would benefit the early Christians if they would heed his counsel. Over two thousand years later, it is still good advice for one to follow.

## Today's Thought:

Don't just talk the talk; walk the walk.

#### Words to Understand:

whoremongers: those who have committed sexual sin; lewdness

#### Today's Reading:

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. 10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

18 ¶ Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. 19 But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

23 Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

25 Grace be with you all. Amen.

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#### Understandest thou what thou readest?

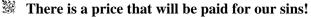
# Are Pou Sure?

Reading the Word of God is very important. However, just knowing it and obeying many of the commandments recorded within its pages will not guarantee anyone an eternity in Heaven. Being a good person, attending church, obeying many of God's commandments, and doing many good deeds are wonderful things to do, but doing them will not get anyone to heaven — according to God's Word.

The Bible records God's way to have His promise of an eternity in Heaven. Since it is His Heaven, then it is His way that counts; not man's unbiblical ideas, philosophies, or religions. Here is what the Bible says needs to believed and trusted on to have an eternity with Him:

#### **W** To know that we are all sinners.

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Rom. 3:10 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Rom. 3:23 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8



"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15

Jesus died so that, whosoever would ask, could receive His death as payment for their sins! "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 5:7-9

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" I Peter 3:18

**Just ask!** If you recognize you are a sinner, and do not want to pay the price for being a sinner, then ask to be saved!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

That's all that is required to be saved from Hell. Often the response is, "That can't be it. It's too easy." Well, its not so easy if you have not been saved yet. People think they have to do something to earn their way to heaven. That is the whole point of what Jesus did. There is nothing you can do to achieve heaven, as you are a sinner. Jesus, however, was qualified and He did it all for you already! Accept what Jesus has done for you and be saved now!

If you want to be saved, just talk sincerely to the Lord in prayer. The words are not really important, as God is more interested in the sincerity of your heart. If you are serious about being saved, pray something like this:

"Lord, I am a sinner. I have broken your heart with my sin. I am sorry for my sin; and with your help will try to keep from sin.

I am not worthy of heaven because of my sin, but Jesus paid the price for what I have done. I believe He died on the cross, was buried and rose again. Please forgive me for my sins; and save me today!"



If you have asked Jesus to save you, please e-mail at <u>brinkworth@frontier.com</u>, that I may rejoice with you over your very important decision.

## Glossary

"dull of hearing": Will not undersand. Much of the time it is not in reference to a hearing problem. "foundation of the world": when the world was created "in the provocation": the days that the Jews struggled with following God while in the wilderness "laying on of hands": when elders of church, ministers, or apostles were used, by the Spirit of God, to heal a person just by touching them. admonished: taught, counseled correctly adversaries: enemies asunder: divided in pieces, separated begotten: to bring into existence, to procreate brethren: those that are saved chastening: discipline, correction cherubim: a created creature that flies with its two wings. It is not an angel, but a different creature. consecreted: separated from a worldly to a holy purpose, dedicated to service and worshipping of God consolation: comforting covenenant: binding agreement. The "first covenenant" referred to those agreements spoken about in the Old Testament disannulling: to nullify, to annul, to get rid of divers: different esteeming: putting value to, to prize exhort: encourage fornicator: person who committed sexual sin, usually between unmarried partners gazingstock: a person looked at with contempt immutability: inability to change mediator: the representative of the people, the "middle man" between God and man ordained: appointed by ordinances: requirements, laws perdition: eternal misery remission: forgiveness repentance: a genuine sorrow for doing something wrong or sinful. This sorrow and grief are strong enough to drive the person to do their best to not commit that wrongful act again. sanctified: cleansed, purified sanctuary: refers to the place in the back of the tabernacle that only the High Priest could enter scourgeth: heavily diciplines, corrects, punishes, whips shadow: not the actual thing, but a picture (or example) of the thing similitude: similar to, much like sojourned: lived in a place succour: help, especially in time of need sundry: more than one sware: promise, make a pledge testator: a person who leaves a will (testament) for his death tithe: one tenth of earnings that are given to the Lord. transgressions: sins translated: moved from one place to another vesture: clothing whoremongers: those who have committed sexual sin. lewdness wrath: anger

## Answers to Questions

#### Hebrews 1:

- 1. By using the prophets.
- 2. The angels (vs. 6)
- 3. To minister to those that are saved (vs. 14)

#### Hebrews 2:



#### Hebrews 3:

- 1. Christ Jesus
- 2. Every time a person refuses to obey what the Holy Spirit is saying to their "conscience", one can get more set in their refusal to obey His commands.
- 3. Unbelief (vs. 12), sin (vs. 13)

## Hebrews 4

- 1. By getting saved (vs.3)
- 2. Not laboring for the Lord (vs. 11)
- 3. Jesus (vs. 14)

## Hebrews 5

- 1. The older brother of Moses and was the first High Priest.
- 2. He was a priest-king at the time of Abraham. See commentary on Hebrews 7.
- 3. Instead of being a mature Christian that can understand spirutally harder things (the "meat of the Word), the person is an immature Christian needing spiritual "baby food".

#### Hebrews 6

- 1. His own name (vs. 13-14)
- 2. To give bad advice (counsel vs. 17) and to lie (vs. 18)

#### Hebrews 7

- 1. One tenth of what he collected from battling the Kings (vss. 1-2), his tithe
- 2. Juda (v. 14) Also called Judah in the Old Testament

#### Hebrews 8

- 1. Jesus
- 2. Jesus
- 3. In the New Testament of the Bible

#### Hebrews 9

1. Candlestick, table of shewbread, golden censer (altar of incense), ark of the covenant

#### Hebrews 10



#### Hebrews 11

- Hoping for something, and knowing that it will be supplied.
   "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb. 11:1
- 2. faith
- 3. God told Noah to build an ark after warning him there would be a flood. At the time the earth was not watered by rain, so it took tremendous faith to trust God would do what He said He would do.

#### Hebrews 12

- 1. That one may not be a child of God (vs. 8)
- 2. Jesus (vs. 2)

#### Hebrews 13



# Rotes



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This daily devotional is different than most other devotionals. Instead of reading a random verse and a short illustration about the principle taught in the verse, this devotional is designed to get the reader to read at least one chapter a day from the book of Hebrews and to teach him at least one important lesson from the day's reading.

A short, 200-500 word commentary highlights one of the principles taught in the day's chapter. This study is not a complete long-winded study of the chapter.

Following the commentary is a short quote about a principle taught in the commentary, several definitions of difficult or un-usal words found in the King James chapter of Hebrews, and several short questions requiring the reader to think about what they have read.

This study is also designed for the Sunday school teacher's or pastor's usage. As many as required pages can be printed or copied, and given out to a class that is studying Hebrews. It is a handout that will help the class or congregation learn principles taught in the book.

Reading the Bible is wonderful; but learning something from it is far more important. Get more out of your daily devotions as you read this devotional.

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wzougoe gerat pronocations. 27 Therefoze thou beliuere into the hand of their enemit vered them, & in the time of t ble, when they cried buto th hearbeft them from beauen :