

Hebrews-

Think again how wonderful is this Hebrews doctrine of our *access* to God by this “new and living way”— the new way of the Cross, and the living way of the ever-interceding One on high. The epistle to the Romans tells us how a sinner may stand before a righteous God; but this epistle to the Hebrews opens up the even more astonishing truth that the justified sinner may approach a God who in His holiness is “a consuming fire.” And, even more than that, it shows how the justified sinner may draw near with utmost confidence, “having *boldness* to enter the *holiest*”! We would recommend students to study carefully the whole teaching of the epistle on this subject of access. It is wonderful. How clearly it expresses that our boldness of access arises from no vain esteeming the dignity of man, nor from any under-reverencing the majesty of God. Our “boldness to enter” is “*by the blood of Jesus*” (Chapter 10:19), and because we have a “great Priest over the house of God” (verse 21). In other words, our access to God is on the ground of what Jesus did for *us*, and what He means to *God* for us.

Explore the Book, J. Sidlow Baxter

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)
<http://preceptaustin.org/hebrews.htm>

Sermon Links:

“Triumph or Tragedy” by Ray C. Stedman
<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/5496/0093.html>

Commentary:

The commentary used throughout this booklet is
With the Word Bible Commentary
by Warren W. Wiersbe.
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Daily Bible Study

Thursday, May 1st, 2008

Passage for today: Hebrews 8

Questions to Ponder

1. What is the main point the author is trying to communicate? What is the significance of Christ being seated at the right hand of God's throne? In what way has He obtained a more excellent ministry?
2. What does this chapter say about the old covenant? How does the new covenant address our need ?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 8

Finality (1). There were no chairs in the Jewish tabernacle or temple because the priests' work was never finished. But Jesus finished the work of redemption (John 19:30) and sat down on the throne (10:11–14). Rejoice!

Reality (2–6). The Jewish priests in the temple ministered with copies and shadows, but Christ in heaven ministers in the original sanctuary from which the things on earth were copied. When you trust Christ, you enter a life of reality, and you are forever finished with substitutes. Rejoice!

Maturity (7–13). The law of Moses was given to the children of Israel as a tutor to help them grow up and be prepared for their Messiah's coming (Gal. 4:1–7). They were like children; God had to take them by the hand and lead them. But the new covenant, with its heavenly priesthood, leads us to spiritual maturity: God puts His Word in our hearts and transforms our character (2 Cor. 3:1–3, 18).

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Heb 8:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Friday, May 2nd, 2008

Passage for today: Hebrews 9

Questions to Ponder

1. How were the services of the earthly tabernacle limited? How is Christ's ministry superior to the Levitical priests?
2. Why was the death of Christ necessary? What makes the sacrifice of Christ far superior to the sacrifices made by the priests?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 9

A better sanctuary (1–10). In every way, the present heavenly sanctuary is better than any sanctuary on earth, including the temple in Jerusalem. The furnishings were only symbols, the work was never finished, and the ministry could never change the human heart. We should be grateful for the price Jesus paid to make His heavenly ministry possible.

A better service (11–15). The Jewish high priest could deal only with externals, but Jesus deals with the heart and conscience. He can purify us and perfect us (13:20–21) so that we can serve God acceptably. Do you come to Him daily and ask for His ministry?

A better sacrifice (16–28). The blood that purchased your eternal redemption came not from unwilling animals but from the Son of God who willingly laid down His life for you (John 10:14–18). The spotless Lamb of God had to die only once; the sacrifice need not be repeated. Have you trusted that blood to save you?

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Heb 9:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008

Passage for today: Hebrews 10

Questions to Ponder

1. What was the shortcoming of the offerings of bulls and goats? In contrast, what has Christ's sacrifice accomplished?
2. In light of Christ's sacrifice what should we do? What warning is given concerning those who fail to continue on with God?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 10

Forgiveness (1–18). The sacrifices under the Old covenant brought a *reminder* of sin, not a *remission* of sin. The blood of God's Son took care of sin once and for all. Because there is no more offering for sin, there is also no more remembrance of sin (v. 17; Jer. 31:34), and we can rejoice that we have a righteous standing before God.

Faithfulness (19–25). The same Savior who died for you now lives for you and invites you to come into His presence to worship and to share your needs. The Old Testament high priest could go behind the veil only once a year, but we can come into God's presence any time. Be sure that you are cleansed and prepared to meet Him. You can trust Him: "He who promised is faithful" (v. 23).

Fearfulness (26–39). The privilege of entering His presence brings with it the responsibility of obeying His precepts. This exhortation applies to those who repeatedly defy God's will and disgrace God's name. God deals with His children; He will not have them acting like rebels. The chapter closes on a note of encouragement. God warns us so that we will not be presumptuous, but He comforts us so that we will not be discouraged. The hard heart needs the warning; the broken heart needs the comfort.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Heb 10:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Sunday, May 4th, 2008

Passage for today: Hebrews 11

Questions to Ponder

1. What definition of faith is given to us in this chapter? According to verse 6, why is it necessary for us to have faith? What must we believe about God?
2. How did Abraham's faith enable him to offer Isaac when he was tested?
3. As you read through the various examples of faith in this chapter, are you prepared to walk in their footsteps?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 11

Faith is confidence in God that leads to obedience to God. True faith is based on what God says and is demonstrated in what we do. People with faith *do* things for God, and God does things for them.

Faith is not a luxury; it is a necessity. It is for common people and not just great leaders. We need faith for worshiping (v. 4) as well as for working (v. 7), walking (vv. 8–9), waiting (vv. 10–12), and warring (vv. 30–34). In any area of life where you ignore faith, you will sin (Rom. 14:23).

The phrase “still others” (v. 36) reminds us that we can live by faith and appear to be defeated. Not everybody who trusted God was delivered or protected (vv. 36–40). But the important thing is not God's deliverance; it is God's approval (v. 39). Faith in God gives you the ability to endure when others are giving up.

Where does this faith come from? Read Romans 10:17 and 15:4.

“Faith makes all things possible; love makes all things easy.”

D. L. Moody

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Heb 11:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Monday, May 5th, 2008

Passage for today: Hebrews 12

Questions to Ponder

1. In the opening verse, in what way is the Christian life pictured for us? We are called to lay aside every weight and sin.
2. As you think about this personally, what are the things that this would point to?
3. Where do we find strength and power to endure? How did Christ endure? What is the cure for discouragement?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 12

Runners (1–4). The people listed in chapter 11 are the “cloud” that witnesses to us, “God can be trusted! Put your faith in His Word and keep running the race!” When you read the Old Testament, your faith should grow, for the account shows what God did in and through people who dared to trust His promises (Rom. 15:4). When you read the Gospels, you see the greatest example of endurance in Jesus Christ.

Children (5–11). “Chastening” refers to child training, helping the child prepare for adulthood. It does not necessarily mean punishment for disobedience, although that sometimes might be included. The successful runner must exercise discipline and submit to training. Never fear the chastening hand of the Lord; it is controlled by a loving heart. God’s goal is your maturity.

Citizens (12–29). The people of Israel had a frightening experience of law at Sinai (Exod. 19), but our experience at Mount Zion is one of grace and glory. We are citizens of the heavenly city and will one day fellowship with patriarchs and angels—and God! But this does not mean we can ignore His solemn voice to us. If God is shaking things in your life, listen to His Word. You will discover the things that cannot be shaken, and you will run the race to the end.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Heb 12:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, May 6th, 2008

Passage for today: **Hebrews 12**

Questions to Ponder

1. What does this chapter teach us about God's chastening? Why does God chasten us? What does it yield? How should we respond to it? What does it mean for those who are not disciplined by God?
2. According to verse 14, what should we be pursuing? Why is this so important? What do verses 28 and 29 teach us about the way we are to serve God?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 12

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—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Heb 12:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, May 7th, 2008

Passage for today: Hebrews 13

Questions to Ponder

1. What practical instructions are given to us in verses 1-6? What priority do these things have in your life? How should we view and respond to spiritual leaders?
2. Consider verse 8. Why is this verse so important in recognizing strange doctrines? How is the prayer at the close of the book such a great conclusion to all that you have read in this letter?

With the word Bible Commentary

Hebrews 13

Lest we get the idea that we can run the race successfully alone, the writer closes his letter by reminding us to follow our spiritual leaders. If we do, we will love the brothers and sisters (v. 1), help strangers (v. 2) and prisoners (v. 3), live above lust (v. 4) and covetousness (vv. 5–6), and not be led astray by false doctrines (v. 9).

Remember them (7–8). This may refer to leaders now dead, but their ministry goes on. Remember what they taught you, how they lived, and what they lived for. Church leaders may come and go, but Jesus is the same; and they must fix our eyes on Him.

Obey them (17). If they are faithful to care for your soul and teach you the Word, you have the responsibility to obey. A spiritual leader is not a dictator who drives you from behind. He is a shepherd who goes before and leads the way.

Pray for them (18–19). When you come to the throne of grace, ask God to make His shepherds faithful and fruitful. Pray that the Great Shepherd will use them to “make you complete in every good work” (vv. 20–21).

Greet them (24). You should know your leaders personally and be on good terms with them. Let nothing come between you that could create problems in the fellowship (12:14–15).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Heb 13:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson

Outline

Hebrews 1 Jesus is the message – fullness of God

Exhortation: Danger of Drifting (2:14)

Hebrews 2 - Jesus' humanity – what accomplished

Exhortation: Keep focus on Jesus (3:1)

Hebrews 3-4 Jesus is our Rest

Exhortation: Don't doubt, be diligent (3:7-4:13)

Hebrews 4-5 Jesus our High Priest

Exhortation: Danger of Dullness (5:11-6:20)

Hebrews 7-10 Jesus our Superior High Priest

A superior order—7

A superior covenant—8

A superior sanctuary—9

A superior sacrifice—10

Exhortation: Beware of despising the Word (10:26-39)

Hebrews 11-13 – A Superior Principle – Faith

The great examples of faith—11

The endurance of faith—chastening—12

Exhortation: Don't defy the Word (12:14-29)

Closing practical exhortations—13

"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?"

Hebrews 9:14

Devotional From *Our Daily Walk*

By F B Meyer

What is the meaning of that great word eternal? Too often it is employed as though it were synonymous with everlasting. But the two words stand for two very different things. Everlasting conveys the idea of the duration of time; whereas eternal stands for the quality and character of the existence referred to, which is absolutely timeless. The eternal is that which is not measured by duration, which has no succession of years, which cannot be described as past or future. It is the dateless present, and can only be used, therefore, of God, the AIM, because He lives in the eternal now. He never was and never will be anything that He is not at this present moment, and only that which partakes of His Being can be termed eternal.

When, therefore, we are told that our Lord offered Himself to God through the Eternal Spirit, we must believe that in the Cross there was this element of Timelessness. Our Lord was the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8). The Cross of Christ has been contemporaneous with all the generations of mankind, and it is this attribute of Timelessness which gives the Cross its perennial power. There is a sense in which Christ is always being wounded by our transgressions, bruised by our iniquities, chastised for our peace, and bearing the stripes that procure our healing.

The Cross of Christ stands with open arms to welcome every sinful soul. The nails are not rusted or blunted by the years that have passed since they were driven into the flesh of Christ our Lord. And as we humble ourselves, and submit our proud and selfish soul-life to be nailed with Him to the Cross, in the power of the Eternal Spirit, out of suffering comes life to those to whom we minister, as we serve the Living God, and we can say with the Apostle: "Death worketh in us, but life in you." (2Co 4:10-12).

“Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

Hebrews 9:28

Devotional From *Faith's Checkbook*

By C H Spurgeon

This is our hope. He to whom we have already looked as coming once to bear the sins of many will have another manifestation to the sons of men; this is a happy prospect in itself. But that second appearing has certain peculiar marks which glorify it exceedingly. Our Lord will have ended the business of sin. He has so taken it away from His people and so effectually borne its penalty that He will have nothing to do with it at His second coming. He will present no sin offering, for He will have utterly put sin away. Our Lord will then complete the salvation of His people. They will be finally and perfectly saved and will in every respect enjoy the fullness of that salvation. He comes not to bear the result of our transgressions but to bring the result of His obedience; not to remove our condemnation but to perfect our salvation. Our Lord thus appears only to those who look for Him. He will not be seen in this character by men whose eyes are blinded with self and sin. To them He will be a terrible Judge and nothing more. We must first look to Him and then look for Him; and in both cases our look shall be life.

“For He Who Comes to God Must Believe...”

Hebrews 11:6

God exists. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. Do you know these statements to be true? Have you experienced the reality of such great truths? Here in Hebrews 11, “the Faith chapter” of the Bible, we find the massive statement, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Many in the world will tell us that they believe that God is. In this they mean that they observe the stars in the sky and babies being born (general revelation), and in their minds, they conceive that God must exist. But do they act upon this truth? Do they live according to such revelation?

Moses asked God who he should tell Pharaoh who sent him. And God answered, “I AM WHO I AM.” God is. He is the answer to all things. He is sovereign over every detail of the earth and of our bodies. He is the answer to all our problems. Without a confidence in this truth that would cause us to live like we believe it, we are with the rest of the world who thinks there might be a God, but does not live like He exists. We are in a place of not being able to please God.

Not only must one who wants to please God believe that God is, but he must also believe that God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. This truth is tougher to live by at times than the truth that says that God exists. To believe that God is a rewarder and not one who is out to get us is tough to accomplish when we are in a fix. But In order to please God we must come to Him with the belief that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Saint, His ability to reward is abounding! But do we believe it? Our effort in seeking Him will answer such a question. Today, seek God like Enoch did (Gen. 5:21-24), who walked with God in the midst of a world full of violence and sin! Seek Him diligently, please Him faithfully and know Him fully as the rewarder of those who do so!

"These all died in faith."

Hebrews 11:13

Devotional From *Morning and Evening*

By C H Spurgeon

Behold the epitaph of all those blessed saints who fell asleep before the coming of our Lord! It matters nothing how else they died, whether of old age, or by violent means; this one point, in which they all agree, is the most worthy of record, "they all died in faith." In faith they lived—it was their comfort, their guide, their motive and their support; and in the same spiritual grace they died, ending their life-song in the sweet strain in which they had so long continued. They did not die resting in the flesh or upon their own attainments; they made no advance from their first way of acceptance with God, but held to the way of faith to the end. Faith is as precious to die by as to live by.

Dying in faith has distinct reference to the past. They believed the promises which had gone before, and were assured that their sins were blotted out through the mercy of God. Dying in faith has to do with the present. These saints were confident of their acceptance with God, they enjoyed the beams of his love, and rested in his faithfulness. Dying in faith looks into the future. They fell asleep, affirming that the Messiah would surely come, and that when he would in the last days appear upon the earth, they would rise from their graves to behold him. To them the pains of death were but the birth-pangs of a better state. Take courage, my soul, as thou readest this epitaph. Thy course, through grace, is one of faith, and sight seldom cheers thee; this has also been the pathway of the brightest and the best. Faith was the orbit in which these stars of the first magnitude moved all the time of their shining here; and happy art thou that it is thine. Look anew to-night to Jesus, the author and finisher of thy faith, and thank him for giving thee like precious faith with souls now in glory.

"Looking unto Jesus."

Hebrews 12:2

Devotional From *Morning and Evening*

By C H Spurgeon

It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He insinuates, "Your sins are too great for pardon; you have no faith; you do not repent enough; you will never be able to continue to the end; you have not the joy of his children; you have such a wavering hold of Jesus." All these are thoughts about self, and we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self: he tells us that we are nothing, but that "Christ is all in all." Remember, therefore, it is not thy hold of Christ that saves thee-it is Christ; it is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee-it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument-it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to thy hope, but to Jesus, the source of thy hope; look not to thy faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of thy faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by "looking unto Jesus." Keep thine eye simply on him; let his death, his sufferings, his merits, his glories, his intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when thou wakest in the morning look to him; when thou liest down at night look to him. Oh! let not thy hopes or fears come between thee and Jesus; follow hard after him, and he will never fail thee.

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness:
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

"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, looking unto Jesus."

Hebrews 12:1-2

Devotional From *Our Daily Walk*

By F B Meyer

Leave behind your past sins. They have been many and great, more than you can count. But if you have confessed and forsaken them, they have been put away, "as far as the east is from the west." Nothing could be more explicit than 1Jo 1:9. It is useless to brood over the past. God has buried it in the grave of Christ. Go and sin no more!

Leave behind your bad habits that encumber you (R.V. marg.). You know what they are, and how they cling--ill-temper, jealousy, pride, evil-speaking, and many another! You have fallen again and again, overtaken by them, tripped up, your robes stained and torn. There should be some finality in your life, a mark on the grass from which you start to run the race. The command to put off the old man is in the definite tense (Col 3:8-9). It be-speaks one sudden strong act of the will, God-nerved and God-empowered. This, then, is the hour when you must strike for liberty "Ye have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Leave behind your accomplished ideals. They were once far in front and above you. As you climbed they seemed almost inaccessible, and mocking voices rang out their defiance of your attempt. But by the grace of God things that once you dreamt of are now realised, and you are sitting on the peak that once seemed to laugh you to scorn. But you must leave it behind! Look up! look forward! Are there not fresh ideals calling to you? Leave behind your attainments and strike your tents. One battle is fought, but a yet stronger foe bars the way immediately in front. It is suicidal to rest on your oars; to do so will expose you to the inevitable backward drift.

The best way to leave behind is to press forward. The Spirit of God bids us "run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus." He is our Forerunner, always before us, always leading us on. His crest, like the plume of Henry of Navarre, is always in the very thick of the fight. Let the soul follow hard after Him, and it will become almost oblivious to what it leaves behind. The boy who is running for the goal, in his eagerness to win the prize, strips himself of one and

another article of clothing. He will not count their worth, so long as he may win the prize. So run that ye may attain! Apprehend that for which you were apprehended! Lay hold on the outstretched crown of life!

“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.”

Hebrews 12:25

Over and over again in the book of Hebrews, we find reminders that God speaks. Along with these reminders we find exhortations to not harden ourselves to His voice. (Heb. 1:1-2; 2:1-4; 3:7-19; 4:1-2, 7, 12, 16; 6:11-12; 9:15; 10:19-23, 35-39) Most of these instances in Hebrews seem to imply that God was calling His chosen people to move forward into the step of faith He had laid out for them. From the beginning their fathers had shrunk back from His calls. They fell short of the glory that He had for them. Here in Hebrews, the author, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, called the Hebrew Christians of his day to not make the same mistake. And for us, the same exhortation applies. When God speaks to us, we are to act.

Christian, the thing that separates you from those still dead in their trespasses is that the Living God speaks to you. Through His Spirit, He guides you, teaches you, corrects you and exhorts you. It is your privilege to have such access to His wisdom and leading. Here in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews, we find yet another reminder that God speaks. We also find with this reminder, a warning: “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.”

The exhortation begins with the verb *see*. The Greek word is *blepo* which carries with it the idea of *to look at, to beware or to take heed*. In this verse, it implies a sense of urgency and careful attention. The same word is used when Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod and to beware of the scribes (Mark 8:15; 12:38). Obviously, the Lord is serious in His call for us to look at, to take heed to, and to beware of something here.

But what are we supposed to beware of or to take such strong heed to? We are called here to *see* that we do not *refuse*... The Greek word interpreted as *refuse* here is actually made up of two words. The first of the two means *aside*; and the other, *to ask or beg*. Put together, the word means to ask or beg to be moved aside; or to beg a person's release from something or to beg to be excused. The person who would do such a thing would be found reluctant more than willing. They would indeed have an opportunity laid before them, and instead of

moving forward, they would ask or beg to be released from the blessing.

An example from Scripture of such a refusal is found in Matthew 22 where Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast to the Pharisees and the chief priests. The parable is told of a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son. The king sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding. They were not willing to come. They heard of the king's invitation and they refused it. The king sent out other servants to those who were invited again. This time they refused his invitation more harshly. They made light of the invitation and one went to his farm and another to his business. The rest of those invited seized the king's servants and treated them spitefully and killed them. The king, upon hearing about their refusal, sent out his armies and destroyed the one who murdered his servants and burned their city. The king then sent out and invited all who were willing to come. All who accepted were given wedding garments (except one) and they entered into the wedding hall of the king. A truly delightful, but sobering story. What a tragedy for those who refused the king's invitation! They each had something going on in their lives that they valued higher than the king's invitation. We too might do the same. But the writer of Hebrews calls us here to take heed that we do not.

The passage goes on to tell us to take heed that we do not refuse *Him who speaks*. The one mentioned here as *Him* is the Living God of the universe. The Hebrew people knew who He was. They had grown up hearing stories of how He had been speaking to men throughout all history. But they also had seen and heard of how their fathers refused to hear His calls to them at times. They had indeed refused Him over and over. And over and over, He left them behind in their state of wandering, hard-heartedness and misery.

The exhortation we read here called to the Hebrews who had come to know Jesus. They had heard His voice already unto being born again. But they were still warned here of the potential within each of them to refuse the voice of God. Like them, we are fully capable of shrinking back from His call for us to step forward into faithful steps of obedience that He lays before us. Let us not do so!

Today, as you walk with Christ, understand that the Lord is speaking to you. He is speaking to You through His Spirit. Understand as well that there is a valid threat of you not heeding to what He says. May you understand the potential and soberly move forward into His reward. May you hear His voice and walk into all the good works that He has laid out before you, in Christ Jesus!