

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to Hebrews 6

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the book of Hebrews

A letter that was written to a group of Jewish believers who were contemplating returning to Judaism

The writer has been pointing to the Old Testament to provide evidence after evidence that by going back to Judaism – this group of Jewish believers would be taking a step backwards.

Because everything they were thinking about going back to in Judaism – pointed to Jesus Christ

And he has been making the point that Jesus is superior to anything they were thinking about going back to.

And for the past couple of weeks – the writer has been giving them the diagnosis for why they want to return – spiritual immaturity.

They were still babes –

Not that they were new believers –

They were spiritually lazy

They were still drinking milk – they were dull of hearing – they were not applying the word of God in their life. It was going in one ear and out the other

And this spiritual maturity was going to lead them to a life of disappointment and they were going to lose out on blessing those around them as well as God's blessings for their own life.

So the writer has been exhorting them in our text – and now, in our text, we are going to see the encouragement.

He is going to encourage them to press forward and give to us some very practical and important truths for our walk in Christ

Let's pray...

I want to start off our study with a biblical truth to think about

We serve an Almighty God – but there is one thing that He can't do

It is impossible for God to contradict His own nature

**[2Ti 2:13 NKJV] 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

So there are things that God cannot do –

And what God cannot do is - He cannot contradict His own nature

God is bound by His own nature

That means that God is truth – therefore He can't be error

God is love – He can't be hate

He is always good

He is always all-powerful

So God must be consistent with who He is

He doesn't change - **[Malachi 3:6a NKJV] 6 "For I [am] the LORD, I do not change;**

He is perfect in every way and He is able to reveal His character and attributes perfectly without changing His ways

So this is how the writer is going to encourage this group of Jewish believers.

Remember – one of the reasons they want to go back is because of the trials and persecution they have been facing as Christians

And so the writer is going to bring comfort to them – that Jesus is greater than any persecution they have been facing or will face

And He is going to do it reminding them of God's attributes.

What God says He is going to do – He is going to do (because that is His nature and He can't contradict His nature)

**[Heb 6:9-20 NKJV] 9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.**

So here is where the encouraging begins –

Remember, the writer has been telling them, this is what is going to happen to you if you go back to Judaism – it is the warning for them to not turn their backs on Jesus

And then he says – loved ones or beloved

I know that you are not going to make that choice

I know that you are going to persevere

I had you make a note of the phrase, things that accompany salvation

The writer is saying that this group of guys – after hearing the warning, that they are going to be moved by the Holy Spirit and draw closer to Jesus and abide in Him and then through the Holy Spirit, they are going to bear fruit.

This is where we finished out study last week – remember, he had mentioned (vs 7,8) that if they continued in their path, they were not going to bear fruit but bear thorns and briers

The writer is saying, “I know you are going to heed this warning that I am giving to you – I know you are going to press forward (persevere) and I know that you are going to experience those good things(blessings) that God is going to do in your life”

**10 For God [is] not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, [in that] you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**

One of the primary evidences of salvation is love, specially love for other believers.

I talked about this on Sunday in our study in John

This group of Jewish believers, despite their other failures – this was one of the things that they were doing right.

They loved one another with a love that was clearly evident as being from the Holy Spirit.

We have to understand that the reason that the writer had confidence that they were not going to fall back to Judaism was because of verse 10 – he knew the God that the served.

He knew that God would fulfill the work He was going to do in them and through them

I had you make a note of the phrase at the beginning of verse 10

**For God [is] not unjust to forget your work and labor of love**

The first thing I want to remind us is that as a believer – we are called to have an active or living faith.

**[Jas 2:26 NKJV] 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

It's not faith and works

It's not faith or works

It's faith that works or a faith that produces works

True faith works!

That is what an active faith is – serving one another, loving one another

This is what this group of Jewish believers had

They had a living faith

But I want you to notice at the assurance that the writer is telling this group and us.

That the eyes of the Lord will never miss any good deed we do for His glory, nor will He be unaware of any labor of love that is shown to Him through the believers serving one another.

This means -

He is fully aware of our thoughts and motives

He is fully aware of the words that we speak

He is fully aware of everything that we do in love – for His praise and glory

And everything that is offered from a heart that is right with God, will not go unnoticed or unrewarded.

**11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,**

Just as they had been diligent in expressing their love for one another, they needed to be diligent in the rest of their pursuit of God.

They started good – they needed to continue to press forward

The writer doesn't want them to remain in their current state

The writer doesn't want them looking back and going back to Judaism

He wants them to run the race to finish it

In the same way –

We have a race that is set before us and we can't look back

We need to look forward to the finish line – to the author and finisher of our faith – who is Jesus

**12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

The writer here is telling this group of Jewish believers to put their eyes on certain people

Not the people that were trying to lure them into something else

He wants them to get their eyes on people who are marked by faith in God and perseverance with their relationship with the Lord

They believed with what God has said and they just keep walking with God no matter what.

He is telling them –

Make those your heroes

Make those your models

Make those the people that are speaking into your life rather than the people you are currently letting influence you

The writer is helping them see that God is giving them the same opportunity He gave their heroes –

He wants them to press on and have the same type of faith that some of the well-known heroes in the Jewish faith had.

**13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."**

The greatest hero of the Jew was Abraham –

He was the consummate man of faith, and the man whose life proves that salvation is by faith and not by works.

For it was about Abraham that we read, "He believed God and God accounted it to him for righteousness."

God made a promise to Abraham – verse 14 (Gen 22:17)

He swore by Himself –

First of all, God's word is enough

But if God wants to give an emphasis on what He is saying, there is no one greater than Him – so He just makes an oath by Himself

Church,

God cannot take an oath or appeal to any authority higher than Himself because He is the highest authority there is.

So when He takes an oath and swears by His own nature, it's meant to be understood as something that is sure!

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

When did Abraham obtain the promise – after he had patiently endured

God gave him a promise

He had to walk by faith that God would keep the promise

He did walk by faith and persevere

And he continued to walk by faith until the promise came to pass and by virtue of doing that – the promise came to pass.

And what is true regarding the promise God gave Abraham – about making him a great nation is true for the believer today about faith in Christ and salvation in Christ

We put our trust in Him and then we continue to the Lord to bring it all to full fruition

If we look in faith to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, no matter what this world throws at us, our hope is unshakeable!

We are utterly secure in Christ!

Heaven is our home and destiny – and nothing can take it from us!

If God said it – that settles it

That is what the writer of Hebrew is telling these Jewish believers.

God has declared that salvation is in His Son – why are you guys still struggling with this by wanting to go back to Judaism???

When God says something – it should end the dispute

**16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation [is] for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability (unable to change) of His counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it [is] impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before [us].**

God can be trusted – not only because God will not lie – but it is impossible for God to lie

So when we read in God's word all the promises about salvation and then we read man's words – what he has to say about salvation.

If they don't match – we go with God's word

Because man is known to lie or to be self-deceived.

But it is impossible for God to lie or to be self-deceived

God did not have to take an oath when He made the promise to Abraham

The reason He took the oath was for you and me

The adding of an oath to the promise of God is an act of God's grace, which appeals to us to cast ourselves in utter and unreserved confidence on Him.

So when we read Gen 22 –

We know that the promise and the oath was prophetic, it is to encourage the believer today that God will be faithful to fulfill His promise

What are the two immutable things

1. His promises in His word
2. His oath

And based on these two things – we find comfort that God is going to fulfill what is in His word

And He has promised us hope

We can have hope in our salvation

We can have hope that God will continue to work in us and through us – spiritual maturity

We have a future hope that one day we will be with Jesus

**19 This [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the [Presence] behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered**

**for us, [even] Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

One of the things that I found out when I used to go deep sea fishing is that a ship's anchor is only really secure, if it catches on something.

If the sea is calm – an anchor can be dropped on the side of the boat and the boat is not going to go anywhere – in restful waters

However, if the seas get tough – the guys on the boat better make sure that the anchor is secure to something – or else they are going to be tossed or drift away

The picture the writer paints here is that Jesus Christ has taken our anchor, entered heaven and tied it to round the legs of the throne of God.

The image he uses is one they would have easily understood but which may be lost on us.

Remember, the writer is speaking to Jews – this is something that was very familiar with them.

They knew what happened at the Tabernacle and the Temple sacrifices.

They knew what would happen on the Day of Atonement

Once a year, and only once a year, the Jewish high priest would pass through the curtain and enter of the Holy of holies in the temple and stand before the ark of the covenant where the glory cloud (shekinah glory) of God's presence was manifest.

he would then carefully sprinkle on the top of the ark, the blood of a goat that had been sacrificed on behalf of the sins of the entire nation

The high priest would carefully back out of the Lord's presence, passing once more through the veil that separated that sacred place (holy of holies) from the rest of the temple.

Jesus is our Great high priest who's entered the heavenly holy place that the temple was merely a model of.

and when He entered the heavenly sanctuary, He brought, not the blood of a goat, but His own blood.

this He offered before the Father as the final sacrifice for sins.

and instead of leaving – like the Aaronic HP, He sat down at the right hand of the

Father – His work forever complete –

and our hope ever secure because He now lives to make intercession for us.

No matter what storms may come, because we are firmly anchored to God we are safe and don't need to worry about being shipwrecked.

They say that those that are out on a storm-tossed ship – those that are firmly anchored will always point to their place of anchor

And in the same way – it is the storms of life that reveal what we truly put our hope in –

When the storms of trial come, it's the unique opportunity of God's people to point to Him as the only real and lasting hope.

There is an old hymn – that they played at the Men's retreat a few weeks ago

VERSE 1:

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

VERSE 2:

When darkness seems to hide His face

I rest on His unchanging grace

In every high and stormy gale

My anchor holds within the veil

CHORUS:

On Christ the solid Rock I stand!

All other ground is sinking sand

All other ground is sinking sand

All other ground is sinking sand -

You & I have a hope, a real substantial hope today because Jesus rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

His resurrection is the sure guarantee of ours!

Yes, God kept His promise to Abraham – and the good news is that God will keep His promise to all those who like Abraham look in faith, to Him.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'