

HEBREWS 10:19 – HEBREWS 13:25

OVERVIEW

This section is less about doctrine than it is about application. In addition, it contains the two strongest warnings in the book.

Chapter 10:19-39 explicates the proper response to all that Christ has done, but also contains the strongest warning to the individual in the book. It is essentially a warning against presumption.

Chapter 11 contains first an explanation of faith and then examples of what biblical faith looks like – namely that it is active rather than passive.

Chapter 12:1-17 explains the presence, purpose and necessity of God's discipline in the life of the believer.

Chapter 12:18-29 speak to the worthiness of the prize, in light of the discipline of God.

Chapter 13 reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven and that on earth we, like our spiritual forebearers, are aliens and exiles on the earth. Practical applications of this truth are given.

CHAPTER 10:19-39

After summary statement in the first paragraph, the author then offers three applications.

- 1) Verse 23, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;"

This hope is eternal rather than temporal and comes at the expense of the erosion of temporal hope.

No one can serve two masters, yet few really believe it. Matt 6:33 (seek first His kingdom and His righteousness...) is at the heart of an eternal hope.

2) Verse 24, “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

How much time do you put into thinking about how to stimulate others to love and good deeds? Are you even conscious of your responsibility to do so?

3) Verse 25, “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

Note that fellowship is not optional for Christ’s followers but the onus is on each of us individually to identify with whom we fellowship. This is not a call to join a “church.” You must define before God for yourself what this looks like.

Little “c” church is a social construct. YOU MUST DECIDE BEFORE GOD WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU.

4) THE FOURTH WARNING Verses 26-31, “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

THIS ISSUE ADDRESSED BY THIS WARNING IS NOT CAN ONE LOSE ONE’S SALVATION BUT CAN A PERSON WITH THE EXTERNAL TRAPPINGS OF BELONGING TO CHRIST IN FACT BE DAMNED.

THE ANSWER IS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND THE WARNING DRAWS OUR ATTENTION TO WILLFULNESS.

GOD WILL NOT RELATE TO WILLFUL PEOPLE AND OUR GENERATION IS A HIGHLY WILLFUL ONE.

Verses 35-39, “Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,

HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;

AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”

GOD HATES COWARDICE. Revelation 21:8,

“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Cowardice is enough to get us into Hell.

CHAPTER 11 -FAITH, EXPLANATION AND EXAMPLES

It may be an overstatement to say that this is the most important chapter in the book but it is likely the most important of this section.

Consider 1 John 5:4,

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Let’s take a few minutes to try to understand this.

Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Two arenas: 1) Future, 2) Unseen

- A. With respect to future faith, and the hope it engenders, serve as an anchor to our soul, in uncertain times and the times are always uncertain. (Hebrews 6:19).
- B. With respect to the invisible, it tethers us to the unseen spiritual reality, which superintends the physical world that we experience. Lamentations 3:37-38; Ephesians 6:12

FAITH IS COMMITMENT BEFORE KNOWING (we don't know the future nor do we know whether God and heaven exist.)

BUT FAITH IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT – IT IS A SYSTEM OF THOUGHT, A WAY OF KNOWING – YOU KNOW THINGS YOU COULD NOT POSSIBLY OTHERWISE KNOW. AND THOSE THINGS MATTER.

Imagine if the Bible didn't exist and we had only the natural world from which to learn. Among other things, you could not deduce:

- A. 1) God has a Son, 2) His Son became a man, 3) He became a man to die a painful but propitious death on the cross, 4) Grace, 5) Election, 6) God's purposes and your own purpose, 7) the purposeful linearity of history, 8) the moral structure of the universe and of history, 9) eternal life and the ultimate destiny of the human race, 10) God is both sovereign and good, 11) this world is not our home.

These are only a sampling of the worldview produced by Christianity. THIS WORLDVIEW HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY OUR CULTURE.

B) BUT IT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT – IT IS THE MEANS OF HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CREATOR.

HEBREWS 11:6,

“And 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 seek Him.” (This is the entire ethos of the Bible.)

Faith and certainty are mutually exclusive. If you must believe/have faith, not certainty, that God exists, how can you be certain that you are saved and that His promises are true and apply to you?

You cannot but there is a second condition in verse 6, that you believe that He rewards. IF YOU SAY THAT REWARDS DON'T MATTER TO YOU, THEN YOU HAVE NOT MET THE TWO CONDITIONS OF VERSE 6.

TO HAVE A BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, REQUIRES THAT YOU SHARE HIS VALUE SYSTEM.

AND HIS VALUE SYSTEM IS ETERNAL AND INCLUDES REWARDS.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE FINAL POINT ABOUT FAITH.

AND STILL IT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT – FAITH (BELIEVING AND APPLYING THE WORD) IS THE MEANS BY WHICH, IN CONCERT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOUR SOUL IS TRANSFORMED.

AND WHY IS THIS TRANSFORMATION OF SOUL NECESSARY? BECAUSE WE ARE NOT YET READY TO LIVE IN THAT ETERNAL CITY, IN SUCH CLOSE PROXIMITY TO GOD. REMEMBER, YOUR SOUL IS TRANSFORMED WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE ON EARTH, YOUR BODY IS TRANSFORMED AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

- I. PREPARING FOR ETERNITY WITH GOD BEGINS WITH FAITH – BELIEVING ALL THAT HE SAYS. AND BELIEVING INCLUDES ACTING ON.

1 John 5:1-4, “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

How does faith overcome the world?

1 Corinthians 1:26-29, “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.”

How can God choose things that are not and they in turn nullify things that are?

2 Corinthians 5:16-17, “ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

HE DOES IT BY MAKING YOU A NEW CREATURE.

Do you recognize and treat people according to who they are in the world’s eyes or who they are in Christ or potentially are in Christ? In what sense are you a new creature?

Imputed but must be actualized. Luke 9:23-24, John 3:30. Self-denial=death of sinful flesh (intertwined fingers illustration).

EXAMPLES OF FAITH

- A. Abel, as already discussed is the first martyr – Hebrews 11:4, “By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.” Revelation 6:9-11 shows the martyrs under the very altar of God. IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL TO GOD, YOU WILL BE HATED BY THE WORLD. WE MUST LOVE CHRIST MORE THAN WE LOVE OUR OWN LIVES.
- B. Enoch is representative of those who will one day be raptured, without dying – Hebrews 11:5, “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.” ENOCH TEACHES THAT EARTH IS NOT OUR HOME. DOES MY LIFE REFLECT THAT? “HE WHO LOVES HIS LIFE LOSES IT, AND HE WHO HATES HIS LIFE IN THIS WORLD WILL KEEP IT TO ETERNAL LIFE.” JOHN 12:25
- C. Noah represents the first prophet – Hebrews 11:7, “By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” THE TRUE

PROPHETS GO UNHEEDED, WHILE THE FALSE HAVE A GREAT FOLLOWING. LUKE 6:26, "WOE TO YOU WHEN ALL MEN SPEAK WELL OF YOU, FOR THEIR FATHERS USED TO TREAT THE FALSE PROPHETS IN THE SAME WAY." BE CAREFUL WHO YOU BELIEVE.

- D. Abraham is the father of all who are of faith (Romans 4:16) and has more written about him in Hebrews 11 than anyone else. ABRAHAM BELIEVED ALL THAT GOD SAID. THOUGH THIS IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO HEAR HIS VOICE, IT IS NONETHELESS RARE. MAKE UP YOUR MIND BEFORE THE FACT, THAT IF THE CULTURE OR THE CHURCH DISAGREES WITH THE BIBLE, THAT YOU WILL BELIEVE THE BIBLE RATHER THAN THE CHURCH OR CULTURE.
- E. Sarah is seen in Hebrews 11:11, "By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised." She is a type of Mary, indicating that Christ, the Son of God, is to be born of a woman. HEBREW'S SAYS SHE "CONSIDERED HIM FAITHFUL." THERE IS A DISCONNECT BETWEEN WHAT HEBREW'S SAYS ABOUT THIS EVENT AND HOW IT READS IN GENESIS 18:11-15. BUT I SUGGEST THAT THIS IS A MESSAGE OF HOPE. CONSIDER 1 CORINTHIANS 4:5, "THEREFORE DO NOT GO ON PASSING JUDGMENT BEFORE THE TIME, BUT WAIT UNTIL THE LORD COMES WHO WILL BOTH BRING TO LIGHT THE THINGS HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS AND DISCLOSE THE MOTIVES OF MEN'S HEARTS; AND THEN EACH MAN'S PRAISE WILL COME TO HIM FROM GOD."
SARAH IS AN EXAMPLE OF GOD DISCLOSING THINGS IN HER THAT WE CANNOT SEE, BUT THAT PLEASE HIM AND ELICIT PRAISE.
DO NOT BE HASTY IN YOUR JUDGMENT AND YOU WILL FIND GOD TO BE PROFOUNDLY GRACIOUS. THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY APPEAR.
- F. Isaac is least impressive of this group. Hebrews 11:20, "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come." Why is this praiseworthy? He kept the faith even after being offered as a human sacrifice, when it would have been so easy and even expected that he would renounce both God and his father. He represents all the "unimpressive" people of the world, who do just their small share in God's program. They labor in obscurity to all save God. ISAAC STANDS FOR ALL THE ORDINARY AND DOWNTRODDEN OF THE WORLD, WHO REMAIN FAITHFUL THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES. ISAAC DID WHAT OUR GENERATION

HAS FAILED TO DO. WHICH IS TO PASS ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS.

- G. Jacob is mentioned in Hebrews 11:21, “By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.” This is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, in blessing Joseph’s two sons the birthright passed from Reuben, the firstborn to Joseph (1 Chronicles 5:1) and rewarded Joseph’s faithfulness and disciplined Reuben for his sin, 1 Chronicles 5:1, “Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright.” IN THIS WE SEE THE LAW OF THE HARVEST. GOD WILL REWARD THE FAITHFUL. Secondly, reference is made to his worshiping from his staff recalling his wrestling with the angel of the Lord. This is important because it teaches the important truth that GOD IS ALWAYS BOTH OUR PROBLEM AND OUR SOLUTION. Jacob didn’t stop wrestling until God had blessed him. HE IS OUR PROBLEM BECAUSE HE IS BOTH SOVEREIGN AND GOOD. HIS WOUNDS ARE REDEMPTIVE. HE IS OUR SOLUTION FOR THE SAME TWO REASONS.
- H. Joseph is mentioned in Hebrews 11:22, “By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.” THIS INDICATES THE NEED FOR A FIRM GRASP ON GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY AND THE NEED FOR AN UNSHAKEABLE BELIEF IN HIS PROMISES.
- I. Moses, the great lawgiver is not commended for that fact but rather for the necessity of looking to eternal reward.
11:24-26, “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”
- J. Rahab illustrates the handicap system of God. Prior to meeting the spies, we see nothing praiseworthy in her. But on the basis a 40 year old rumor she risked everything and found God’s approval.
Not only so but God put her in the lineage of His own Son. Every time she is mentioned in scripture, her occupation is also named, except in Christ’s lineage.

K. Jephthah was a bastard (Judges 11:1) and a bastard could not enter the assembly of the Lord until 10 generations (Deuteronomy 23:2). Yet God esteemed him great.

He was penalized for something his parents did and today we might call him a victim.

The NT places limits on men who may hold church office or women teaching men. The commandments of God are redemptive rather than punitive and for our protection. NONE OF US ARE VICTIMS AND GREATNESS IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO ASPIRE TO GODLINESS.

NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT OTHERS.

THESE HEROES OF THE FAITH WERE SINNERS AND OTHERWISE FLAWED PEOPLE. ON THE WHOLE, THEY SOUGHT TO CONFORM THEIR SOULS TO THE SPIRITUAL REALITY IN WHICH GOD PLACED THEM. WE, INSTEAD SEEK TO CONFORM REALITY TO OUR OWN WILL. WE MUST EMULATE THESE OT SAINTS.

CHAPTER 12 -THE ENCUMBRANCES OF FAITH

1-2 Christ is our example and we must fix our eyes on Him, not our circumstances. In His example, He look to the “joy set before Him” i.e. the reward. WE MUST BE SIMILARLY MOTIVATED.

3-11 THESE VERSES SPEAK TO THE NECESSITY OF GOD’S DISCIPLINE IN THE RACE OF LIFE.

IT IS TO PRODUCE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS IN US AND WORKS IN TANDEM WITH REWARD.

12-17 FAILURE TO RESPOND PROPERLY TO GOD’S DISCIPLINE LEADS TO BITTERNESS (V 15, “See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled...”

18-24 THIS IS A CONTRAST OF THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS. THE OLD COULD ONLY CONDEMN 18-21). THE NEW PERFECTS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (V 23).

25-29 THE LAST WARNING. WHY THIS SOLEMN WARNING IN LIGHT OF THE NEW COVENANT OF GRACE?

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST DOES NOT REMOVE THE FEAR OF GOD. FAITH IS NOT CERTAINTY.

GOD IS TO BE FEARED BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS AND BECAUSE OF WHO I AM.

MATTHEW 10:28,

“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

FURTHERMORE, THE ABSENCE OF THE FEAR OF GOD IS A SIGN OF BEING LOST.

ROMANS 3:10-18,

“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

“THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,

WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,”

“THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

“WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;

“THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

VERSES 26-27, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.” This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”

THIS SHAKING IS ESCHATOLOGICAL, IN WHICH ONLY THE WORKS OF GOD REMAIN. THIS INCLUDES THE WORKS YOU PERFORMED ON EARTH. WHAT WILL BE LEFT FOR YOU WHEN THIS SHAKING HAS TAKEN PLACE?

CHAPTER 13 – THE EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Key verse)

The whole book has taught the timeless nature of the work of Christ and that His death and crucifixion have consequences both in Heaven and on Earth.

Furthermore, with the advent of Christ we are now in the last days in the sense that God has spoken through His Son once and for all time.

Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."

Not only so but consider Hebrews 7:12, "For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also."

WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?

CHRIST IS THE UNCHANGING, TIMELESS, LAST WORD FROM GOD AND OUR ONLY PRIEST. THE PRIESTHOOD HAS NOT CHANGED, THEREFORE THE LAW HAS NOT CHANGED.

THIS MEANS THAT ALL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDMENTS ARE AS VALID AND ESSENTIAL TODAY AS THEY WERE WHEN FIRST GIVEN.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A CULTURAL COMMAND OR A NEW TESTAMENT COMMAND THAT IS NOT IN FORCE TODAY.

WE WHO ASPIRE TO GODLINESS MUST IN ACTUAL FACT MAKE THE BIBLE OUR TRUE AUTHORITY, EVEN WHEN THE CHURCH DISAGREES. THE CHURCH IS WRONG AND, I FEAR REBELLIOUS.

HEBREWS HAS MADE IT EVIDENT THAT THE PRIZE IS WORTHY OF OUR BEST AND OUR ALL FOR CHRIST.

MAY GOD GRANT US STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE SET BEFORE US, LAYING ASIDE EVERY ENCUMBRANCE AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS. AMEN!

