

The Book of Hebrews Speaks to Christian Men about Living with Integrity and Honesty in Today's World.

Week One

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Date:

Introduction:

Honesty – Truthfulness, Not deceptive or fraudulent; genuine, Equitable; fair, Sincere; frank: Of good repute; respectable. Virtuous; chaste.

Integrity – Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code. Moral soundness, The state of being unimpaired.

Author: Unknown (likely Paul) Timing: 65-70AD Audience: Near converted Jews

The book of Hebrews was written to Old Testament, Law believing, Jews in an attempt to convince them that the Covenant of Grace replaced the Law. It outlines how rewards for following Laws and giving animal sacrifices fades in comparison to Salvation via the Gospel, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, resulting in purity of heart.

The first century Hebrews that tended to align with the Old Testament Law rather than New Testament Grace didn't realize, or didn't accept, that God had changed the means of saving His people. Salvation was through a new Covenant with His Son as told in John 3:16. A large portion of God's "chosen people" refused to "get it."

In many ways, Christian Men today, just like God's chosen people in Hebrews, struggle with "getting" who Christ really is, what He represents, and what it really means to be saved. This study focuses on Integrity & Honesty implied by Grace. Chapters 1-3 talk about who Christ is, how He relates the universe, how that should MOTIVATE us, and what are the repercussions?

Chapter 1

1. What is the ultimate achievement of a saved person while still walking the earth?

1:1 God, who at sundry (Various, Many) times and in divers (Various, Different) manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

1:2 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;

2. a) In 1:1, 2 what did the prophets talk to the people about? b) What did they tell/give God's chosen people?

1:3 **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;

3. What is verse three saying about the Son of God?

1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

4. a) Compare the Son to the Angels. b) Rank God, Man, Son, Angels.

1:5 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?

1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

1:7 And of the angels **he** saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.

5. a) What does vs. 5 & 6 make clear? Psa 89:26, 27 b) What is vs 7 Saying? Psa 104:4

1:9 **Thou** hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore **God**, even thy **God**, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness

1:10 And, **Thou, Lord**, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

1:11 **They** shall perish; but **thou** remainest; and **they** all shall wax old as doth a garment;

1:12 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.

6. What is verse 8, 11, & 12 implying about the Ministry of the Son? John 10:30

1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

1:14 Are **they** not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

7. a) What is the point of the hypothetical questions in v5 & 13? b) Who are heirs to Salvation?

Chapter 2

2:1 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. [the superficial listener will fade in faith]
2:2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast [The Law], and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; [all Laws had punishment]
2:3 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*;

1. a) Who are the ones that heard in vs 1? b) Since Jesus is so far greater than angels, then how intently should we listen to what He has said in comparison to angels, prophets, Moses? Psa 119:9, Prov 4:20-22. c) What are the consequences of neglecting Salvation? Mat 23:33
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2:4 God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers [many, various] miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?
2:5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection [subduing, brining under control] the world to come, whereof we speak.
2:6 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 [Luk 7:16] him?

2. a) Where is the world to come? 2 Pet 3:13 b) Who testified in a certain place? Psa 8:4 c) What is the significance here if scripture quotes scripture?
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2:7 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:
2:8 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.
2:9 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.
2:10 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.

3. a) Does vs 7 & 9 contradict Christ's rank with the angels? Rom 8:3, Phi 2;7-9 b) Explain "captain of salvation." Jos 5:14, Isa 55:4
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2:11 For both he that sanctifieth [made Holy, set apart] and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

4. a) How did the Son become a brother? Psa 22:22, 25 b) What is the significance of this declaration?

2:14 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;

2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2:16 For verily he took not on **him** *the nature of angels*; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

5. a) What is the significance of being partakers of flesh and blood? 1 Cor 15:50 , Rom 3:9-13 The Son came to rescue humanity for humanity had failed at following the Law (rules). THIS IS THE HEART OF THE MATTER! b) Discuss this in the context of Honesty and Integrity.

2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest [Aaron was first, only one to enter the holy of holies in the tabernacle] in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour [to aid, help, empathize, etc.) them that are tempted.

6. a) What is the significance of calling him high priest? Heb 5:1 The Son became human to save us as we are asked to become like him to be saved. b) Why did Christ have to become man? Heb 10:12

Chapter 3

3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle [one sent forth, messenger, missionary] and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
3:2 Who was faithful to him [God the Father] that appointed him[Christ], as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house.
3:3 For this *man* [Jesus Christ] was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.
3:4 For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.

1. a) Jesus the man, is the Son of God; is the Christ, creator of all thing. Define heavenly calling. Rom 8:28-30 b) Why call him Apostle and High Priest? Psa 110:4 c) Explain the house metaphor/example?
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3:5 And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;
3:6 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.
3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

2. a) Num 12:7 – Scripture quoted. b) What was the testimony? John 5:39 Start of quote Psa 95
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3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation [in the embittering of God, provoked God's wrath], in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.
3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.
3:11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

3. Psa 95:7-11 – Scripture quoted. The Jews are warned to heed and not be like those who died in the desert. a) What were God's works? b) What is God's rest? c) Why quote this here? d) Who did not enter in? e) Who did enter in? Numbers 13:6, 13:16, 14:6, 14:24
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3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
3:13 But exhort [encourage] one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

4. Why does God warn that those that do not heed and turn away will not be saved? Psa 95:7-11

3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

5. How do belief and a dedicated life reap all the promises of glory in the hereafter? 1Cor 1:30

3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation [the embittering of God, provoked God's wrath – from Psa 95].
3:16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.
3:17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
3:18 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?
3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

6. UnBelief reaps eternal doom! Relate this to honesty and integrity.

Summary:

Chapters 1 thru 3 of Hebrews establishes the character of the Son of God, "Christ" and what happens to those who do not heed God's intentions for humanity. These chapters start to differentiate the nature of man under the Law and under Grace. We will see that under Law even believers tended to have a carnal perspective of their faith. Life was more about avoiding wrath or punishment. Under Grace we see the character of a "believing" man turning more spiritual and altruistic. Define altruistic.

Thank you for attending,

Pat Turner