

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

Week Two

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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 reconcile OT Law with NT Grace for Messianic Jews and Gospel-exposed Judaism-practicing non-believers. These groups are shown the superior covenant from God via his Son and Grace. In like manner, Christian Men today struggle with the true meaning of Salvation. This study focuses on a higher level of Integrity & Honesty implied by Grace through sanctification.

Last week Chapters 1 thru 3 of Hebrews established the character of the Son of God, “Jesus Christ” and what happens to those who do not heed God’s intentions for humanity. It starts 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 rule-based perspective of their faith. Life then was about avoiding wrath or punishment. Under Grace we see the character of a “believing” man turning more spiritual and altruistic.

Chapters 4 thru 6 talks about grace’s promise of eternal life in heaven, a higher level, or advanced doctrine, perfection (grace) and Christ as the ultimate high priest.

## Chapter 4

**4:1** 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***.  
**4:3** 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.

1. a) In 4:1, 2 What was the Promise? Jer 32:40 b) What is God’s “rest?” Are there two? c) What works were finished? Gen 1:31, Exo 20:11

**4:4** 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.

**4:5** And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest.

**4:6** Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

**4:7** Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David [Psalm 95:6-11 & 132:14], Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

2. a) Where did God rest on the seventh day? Exo 31:17 b) Whom did not enter the rest by unbelief?

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4:8 For if Joshua [Jesus] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. [Was the Mosaic Covenant for Land?]

4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

4:11 Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

3. a) Compare the rest in the Promised Land (First Covenant) to the rest by the Gospel. Isa 11:10  
b) How did God cease from his works? 1 Pet 4:1 c) What labor should we do? Mat 11:28-30
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4:12 For the word of God *is quick*, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. [ *spirit – Latin is pneuma or breathe, life, vital principle in man, non individual – relates to God soul – Latin is anima, Greek psyche, individual. The animal life from the immortal soul – relates to everything* ]

4. a) Given the context of v8-v11 interpret verse 12. b) Define soul vs spirit. 1 Thes 5:23
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4:13 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.

5. a) Are we transparent before Him? 1 Sam 16:7 b) What is the author doing here? 1 Chr 28:9
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4:14 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.

4:15 For we have not a 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.

4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

6. a) What is our profession? b) Why is Jesus a better High Priest? Eph 2:18, Heb 9:11-14  
c) Describe throne of Grace.
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## Chapter 5

**5:1** 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:

**5:2** 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.

**5:3** And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

1. a) What is the significance of being Ordained? b) Describe the office of High Priest. c) Christ offer sacrifices as all high priests. Lev 9:7 His was only once.
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**5:4** And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron.

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

**5:6** As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. [Psalms 110:4 – Messianic Psalm]

2. a) Who was Aaron? b) How does he compare to Christ? c) Describe being called by God.
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**5:7** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications [to seek by earnest prayer] with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

**5:8** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

**5:9** And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

3. a) Who are all the hes and hims? b) How did Christ become perfect? Luke 13:32
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**5:10** Called of God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**5:11** Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

4. Who is Melchizedek and why is he important? Gen 14:18-20, Psa 110:4
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5:12 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.  
5:13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskillfull in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.  
5:14 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.

5. What principles is the apostle saying the recipient of this letter doesn't have? 1 Pet 4:11

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6. a) This chapter focuses on Jesus as the new High Priest, why? b) What is the danger of apostasy [An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, departure from one's faith]?

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## Chapter 6

6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto **perfection** [entire freedom from sin]; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of **faith** toward God,  
6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms [washings], and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.  
6:3 And this will we do, if God permit.

1. a) What is this introduction saying? Heb 5:12-14, 1 Tim 3:16 b) What are the "higher mysteries of Christianity?" 1 John 5:12-13

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6:4 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,  
6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,  
6:6 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.

2. Which is being said, "Losing Salvation" or "being so enlightened that if this won't do it nothing will?" Luke 8:13

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6:7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet [proper, fit] for them by whom it is dressed [cultivated], receiveth blessing from God:  
6:8 But that which beareth thorns and briars *is* rejected, and *is* nigh [near] unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned.

3. There is a very simple truth of Christianity being said here, what is it? Jam 5:7, John 15:6

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6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.  
6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.  
6:11 And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:  
6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

4. What do we need to do to inherit the promises? 1 Th 1:3, Phi 3:14, Phi 1:6

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6:13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,  
6:14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.  
6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.  
6:16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife.

5. What was the promise to Abraham? Gen 22:15-18

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6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability [unchangeability] of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:  
6:18 That by two immutable things [promise and oath], 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:  
6:19 Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;  
6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

6. a) Who are the heirs to what promise? Gal 3:29 b) What is the oath? John 5:24 c) Within what veil? Lev 16:2, 15, Mat 27:51

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### Summary:

Chapters 4 thru 6 of Hebrews focuses on how Christ came onto the scene and replaced the OT rituals, laws, etc, with the higher mysteries of Christianity... “perfection” through grace, salvation, and chastening. The lesson for honesty and integrity is that since the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit means we will some day live in heaven, we should follow His chastening and live to perfection, and strive toward sanctification, and be a testimony to that Kingdom of which we are heirs.

Thank you for attending,

Pat Turner