

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

Week Six

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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. The superior covenant from God via his Son and Grace is proclaimed. Christian Men today struggle with the true meaning of Salvation which is to draw us closer to God through the Holy Spirits chastening. This study focuses on a higher level of Integrity & Honesty implied by Grace and sanctification. Living a pure life...

Chapters 1 thru 3 of Hebrews establishes the character of the Son of God, "Jesus Christ" and what happens to those who do not heed God's intentions for humanity. Under Law believers tend to have a carnal rule-based perspective of their faith. This promoted a life focused on avoiding wrath or punishment and did not work. Under Grace we see the character of a "believing" man turning more spiritual and altruistic with a goal to be Christ-like. Chapters 4 thru 6 describe Grace's promise of eternal life in heaven, an advanced doctrine of perfection or grace and Christ as the ultimate high priest. Chapters 7 and 8 continue to show Christ is the perfect and faultless high priest of believers.

Chapters 9 and 10 describe the true tabernacle, heaven, and the role of sacrifices in Law vs Grace. Chapter 11 is referred to as the "Hall of Faith" chapter, where Faith is defined and exemplified as the central characteristic of the believer under the Covenant of Grace.

## Chapter 12

**Heb 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed [surrounded] about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [press in on all sides, to entangle] *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

1. a) Who are the witnesses? b) What weight? Col 3:5-8 c) What race? Phi 3:10-14, 2 Tim 4:7

**Heb 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author [beginner, source or cause] and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Heb 12:3** For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

**Heb 12:4** Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

2. Why is Jesus the author and finisher of our faith? Rev 1:8

**Heb 12:5** And ye have forgotten the exhortation [Encouragement; inciting to laudable deeds] which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked [punished for faults] of him:

**Heb 12:6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth [Correction; punishment for the purpose of reclaiming], and scourgeth [to whip] every son whom he receiveth.

**Heb 12:7** If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

**Heb 12:8** But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards [illegitimate sons, who were excluded from the rights of inheritance], and not sons.

**Heb 12:9** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

**Heb 12:10** For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

**Heb 12:11** Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous [oppressive, burdensome]: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

3. a) How does chastening by the Lord happen? b) Describe God's Perfect and Permissive Will.

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**Heb 12:12** Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

**Heb 12:13** And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

4. a) Who is being lifted up and who is doing the lifting? b) How does this pertain to Grace?

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**Heb 12:14** Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

**Heb 12:15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled [made dirty, or foul, corrupted];

5. Does this imply that accepting Grace completely is required for salvation?

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**Heb 12:16** Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. [Gen 25:29-34]

**Heb 12:17** For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Gen 27:34-40.

6. a) Who was Esau? b) What was his birthright? Gen 25:31-34 c) What did it mean for him to be rejected? Gen 27:34-36, Mat 7:23.

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**Heb 12:18** For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,  
**Heb 12:19** And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

7. a) What mount is being talked about? b) What happened there? c) Why was the word not spoken?

**Heb 12:20** (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:  
**Heb 12:21** And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

8. a) Who could not endure? b) What caused Moses to fear and quake? c) Discuss Law vs. Grace here.

**Heb 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,  
**Heb 12:23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

9. a) Where is Zion? b) Is there more than one? c) Discuss the transition from Law to Grace.

**Heb 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.  
**Heb 12:25** See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

10. Again Jesus is shown to usher in Grace. Discuss the symbolism in verses 24-25.

**Heb 12:26** Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.  
**Heb 12:27** And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

11. a) What is being shaken? *Mt Sinai* b) What is being contrasted?

**Heb 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

**Heb 12:29** For our God *is* a consuming fire.

12. a) What is “godly fear?” b) Why is God described as a consuming fire?

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## Chapter 13

**Heb 13:1** Let brotherly love continue.

**Heb 13:2** Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**Heb 13:3** Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

1. How was brotherly love dealt with in the Law?

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**Heb 13:4** Marriage *is* honorable in all, and the bed undefiled [not polluted, not violated]: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

**Heb 13:5** *Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness [an inordinate desire to take or have a possession or wealth of another]; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**Heb 13:6** So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

2. How does this apply to the discussion of Grace and brotherly love? 1 Pet 1:4-8, Phil 4:8

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**Heb 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

**Heb 13:8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

3. What rulers are being spoken of here? Act 14:23, 1 Th 5:12

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**Heb 13:9** Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

4. What is the “strange doctrines” here? b) What is the “meats?”

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**Heb 13:10** We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

**Heb 13:11** For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

**Heb 13:12** Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

**Heb 13:13** Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

**Heb 13:14** For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

**Heb 13:15** By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

**Heb 13:16** But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

5. a) Who is “they?” b) Discuss the parallels in sacrifices here?

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**Heb 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

6. Again, what rulers are being spoken about here? Act 20:28 and again Act 14:23, 1 Th 5:12

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**Heb 13:18** Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

**Heb 13:19** But I beseech *you* the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

7. What kind of restoration is being spoken of here? Psalms 4:3

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**Heb 13:20** Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

**Heb 13:21** Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

8. a) How does the covenant make them perfect? Gal 3:3 b) Relate to Honesty and Integrity.

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**Heb 13:22** And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation [Encouragement; inciting to laudable deeds]: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

**Heb 13:23** Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

**Heb 13:24** Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

**Heb 13:25** Grace *be* with you all. Amen.

9. a) What is the exhortation trying to do in the book of Hebrews? 2 Cor 5:20 b) Who are the rulers discussed here?
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### Summary:

Chapters 12 thru 13 of Hebrews puts the icing on the cake. The book of Hebrews shows us that faith and a heart filled with WWJD in every step we take, leads to an immensely fulfilled life. However, we cannot aspire to, or begin to, accomplish a life of honesty and integrity by ourselves. We must surround ourselves with Godly Men and Women, circumstances, and thoughts, and fill our minds with God's Word to bolster us up during this time of trial in this corporeal existence. Exactly the same way that the Hebrews of the first century needed to be encouraged and exhorted to move closer to Grace; we too must purposely put those things in our lives that exhort us toward Grace. It is only then we will find ourselves living with honesty and integrity. Thereby exhorting others to do the same.

May God's Spirit take over your life, Amen.

Thank you for attending,

Pat Turner