

CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHAPEL HOPE CENTER

THE BOOK OF **HEBREWS**

TONY ANDERSON



HEBREWS

BIBLE STUDY

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Hebrews was written to Jews who were beginning to be persecuted because of their new faith in Jesus Christ. Many Jews apparently were tempted to leave their new faith and return to Judaism. The writer encourages the Hebrews by pointing out how much better Jesus and the new covenant is to the old covenant. The writer also delivers warnings about rejecting Christ.

Please read each chapter through once before answering the questions.

CHAPTER 1

1. What facts about Jesus does scripture reveal in verses 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9?
2. What is the significance of these truths to you?
3. Of what is Jesus the heir (see verse 2)?
4. Scripture declares that a believer in Jesus Christ is a co-heir with Christ. Is that significant to you?
What in this life are you treating as more important than your eternal inheritance?

CHAPTER 2

1. What is the writer concerned the reader will do in verse 1?
2. What must you do not to drift?
3. What is the warning to you in verses 2 and 3?
4. From verses 5-8, in the world to come, who will have authority over the angels?
5. Because of God's grace and mercy, He has provided a way for believers through the death of Jesus to be co-heirs with Jesus and crowned with glory and honor and to reign over the angels. Did you realize this? How do you value this in comparison with the other things that are important to you in this life?
6. Verse 10 speaks of Jesus being perfected through suffering. Note that the word "perfected" can mean "completed." What did the writer mean by this?

7. What is the promise to believers in verse 14
(please read 1 Peter 5: 8, 9 and 1 John 5:18 also)?

CHAPTER 3

1. How is a believer described in verse 1? Do you live day to day with those facts in mind? Do you live like "I have to get it all in this life?" Do you fear death?
2. The writer begins to challenge the reader to consider carefully the work of Jesus as Apostle and High Priest. Jesus is then compared to Moses. How are Jesus and Moses similar? Different?
3. What happened to the Israelites under Moses who hardened their hearts (see verses 11, 17-18)?
4. If Jesus is greater than Moses, what can one expect if he hardens his heart toward Jesus?
5. From verses 6, 12-14, what are evidences of true salvation? (Note: verse 6, Hebrews used the term "house" sometimes for "family").
6. Are you displaying a hard heart toward sin in your life? Are you shrinking back from what God calls you to do?

CHAPTER 4

1. Based upon verse 1, what are we to fear?
2. "They/them" in verse 2 refers to the Jews of the Old Testament. Why did the good news preached to them not profit them?
3. What does it mean to have faith in God's promises?
4. In verses 4-11, what are the warning(s)?
5. Based upon verses 12 & 13, what does the Word of God do? How should you live differently as a result?

CHAPTER 5

1. In verse 7, Jesus prayed with loud crying and tears and His prayers were heard because of his piety. What does that mean (see Luke 22:37-44)? Is that your prayer?
2. From verse 8, how did Jesus learn obedience? Had Jesus ever been disobedient before? What instruction for your own life do you learn?
3. Verse 9 speaks of Jesus having been made perfect. His willingness to reject His own desires and fulfill His Father's will by going to the cross "completed" (i.e. perfected) His obedience in this world. What desires are you unwilling to reject to fulfill God's will for you?
4. Verses 11-14, the writer says he has more he wants to teach the reader but the readers have become "dull" (spiritual couch potatoes) and are stuck on milk (baby food). When it comes to understanding spiritual truth or doctrine how much time do you put in? Be specific-minutes? Hours? Per week. What do you do to move to solid food?
5. Based upon verse 14, how does a believer learn to discern good from evil?

CHAPTER 6

1. Verses 1-3, the writer encourages us to become spiritually mature. For you, in what areas of your life do you need to mature in your faith toward God?
2. Verses 3-8 warn of falling away by people who have “heard” the Word of God and participated in the work of the Spirit but were never truly saved. How do verses 7 & 8 compare and contrast the heart of a true believer and the heart of an unbeliever?
3. Which of the verses, 7 or 8, is more descriptive of your heart?
4. Verses 9-15, the writer encourages the reader to not grow weary of doing good. Based upon verse 12 what will be evidence that you will inherit God’s promises?
5. Abraham is an example of faith and patience. When did he inherit the promises of God? Do you have that type of faith and patience?
6. Verses 17-20, God gave us a promise and an oath as assurance of our salvation and our eternal hope. Is that enough for you to anchor your soul, or do your attitudes and actions reveal you expect more than God promised?

CHAPTER 7

Chapter 7 (Read also Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110:4) Note: In Chapter 7, the writer is comparing the Old Testament Levitical Priesthood (Priests were to come from the tribe of Levi-one of Jacob's sons) with Jesus' Priesthood. The priest Melchizedek was a forerunner of Jesus.

1. List all the ways Melchizedek and his priesthood are described in Chapter 7.
2. Verses 11-19, what is the primary deficiency of the Law and the Levitical Priesthood system?
3. Verses 20-28, how is Jesus and the new covenant better than the old law?
4. Like the Hebrews, how are you tempted to return to your former way of life?
5. Verse 25, who is Jesus able to save forever?
6. Spiritually are you running to Christ or away from Christ?

CHAPTER 8

1. What does the writer say is the "main point"?
2. Does this "main point" encourage you on a daily basis? If so how? If not, why not?
3. Verses 6-9 describes the 2nd covenant (faultless) as better than the first (with faults). Both the old covenant and the new covenant came from God. So, why is the 1st covenant not considered faultless?
4. How does your answer to #3 impact your evaluation of how you actually use scripture as instructions for your life?

CHAPTER 9

Chapter 9 (Note: verses 8-9 indicate that the Jewish Old Testament sacrifices were still being performed. So it is probably that the book of Hebrews was written prior to 70 AD when the temple was destroyed.)

1. What was/were the main problem(s) of the Old Testament system of sacrifice?
2. What did Jesus' sacrifice accomplish (give verse)?

Verses 15-18 involve the interplay of the word "diatheke" which is translated covenant. It can mean a "will" (like a last will and testament) or covenant (agreement).

3. What must happen before a person's last will and testament becomes effective?
4. What does a believer in Jesus Christ inherit as a result of Jesus' death?

5. Verse 23, "heavenly things" are thought by some to mean the consciences of God's people. What was needed to cleanse these?
6. What does verse 28 say was the purpose of Jesus' 1st appearance? What will be the purpose of His 2nd appearance?
7. What do you learn about how God works from Chapter 9?
8. What "earthly" gifts and sacrifices (verse 9) and dead works (verse 11) have you been relying on to make you right before God?

CHAPTER 10

1. Verses 1-18, what were the deficiencies of the Old Testament sacrifices?

2. Why was the offering of Jesus Christ superior?

Verse 2 refers to the conscience of a person. Conscience is not an organ of the body. Rather, it is a capacity to judge one's own thoughts, attitudes and actions based on one's particular standards. The judgment one makes about one's thought or attitude or action is based upon the law that is written on one's heart.

3. By whose law do you judge your thoughts, attitudes and actions? Can you say that God's law has been written on your heart (verse 16) and is the basis for how you judge your actions, attitudes and actions?
4. For Old Testament Jews being able to enter God's house/ presence was unheard of. Based upon verses 19-22, why is a Christ follower able to draw near to God?
5. What is the command in verse 23? Are you obedient to it?

6. What is the command in verse 24? Are you obedient to it?
7. Verses 24-25, based on these verses, what is a way God has chosen to provide enabling grace for sanctification (growth in Christ-likeness)? Are you being obedient to these verses?
8. Verses 26-31, what are the warnings?
9. Verses 32-29, why would the writer want these new Jewish Christians to remember the former days referenced in verse 32?
10. Verses 38-39, how is a true believer distinguished from an unbeliever?

CHAPTER 11 (2 DAYS)

Chapter 11 Note: Old Testament heroes did not gain favor with God through sacrifices or ritual but by faith.

1. Verse 1 defines true faith. What are the "things" hoped for and not yet seen? Does Verse 1 describe your faith in Jesus Christ?
2. According to verse 3, by faith what does a believer understand?
3. Having faith means believing the Genesis account of creation and the scriptures. What do you believe about God's Word, the bible?
4. What does verse 6 teach us? Review your answers to questions 1-3 for Chapter 11. Have you been trying to please God without faith?
5. Verse 7, Noah believed God and built the ark despite mocking of the world for 120 years. What does this teach you about true faith? (See account of Noah in Genesis Chapters 6-9).

6. Verses 8-10, what did Abraham do by faith? When did Abraham receive God's promise? (You can read the account of Abram, later known as Abraham beginning in Genesis 11).

7. Today many people want to trust only in the tangible so the fear to trust God. Many "believe" for salvation but will not "believe" (act in faith) if it could lead to embarrassment or suffering. Are you afraid to trust you life in the hands of God? If so, why?

CHAPTER 11: DAY 2

8. Verses 13-16, Old Testament heroes were willing to receive the promises of God at death and did not retreat to their old ways of life when circumstances got hard. Do you live as if life on earth is more important than your life in heaven? Would you love God if your circumstances never got better? Got worse?
9. Verses 17-19 Abraham had faith in God's promises, so that when there was a seeming contradiction between God's promise and what obedience required, Abraham was sure that it was just that, a "seeming" contradiction and trusted God to work through it. Where are you finding it hard to be obedient? Why?
10. Verses 24-29, true faith allows us to see the value of the long term vs. the short term. What passing pleasure of sin or earthly treasure are you finding hard to give up for the reward of pleasing God?
11. Verse 31, Rahab had little knowledge of the true God, yet she acted in faith with the knowledge she had. Are you faithful to biblical knowledge of God that you do have?

12. Verses 32-28, did the heroes of the faith escape persecution? Does your answer to this question encourage you? Why or Why not?

13. Verses 39-40, what do these verses teach us?

CHAPTER 12 (2 DAYS)

1. How does verse 1 encourage you?
2. An encumbrance can be a non-sinful activity or pursuit that becomes excessive or is not beneficial to growth in Christ-likeness. List all possible encumbrances to your growth in Christ-likeness.
3. Verse 2 tells us to run a race and to fix our eyes on Jesus (the Prize) while we run. In a race where are you tempted to look beside the goal line? What principle(s) does this teach you about your spiritual growth?
4. Verse 2, what did Jesus endure? Why?
5. Why does verse 3 tell you to consider Jesus?
6. Has God required you to endure what Jesus did?
7. What do you learn from your answers to Questions 4-6 that you can apply to your life and attitudes?

CHAPTER 12: DAY 2

8. In verses 5-11, what principles do you learn that are encouraging to you?
9. Verse 11, what is the blessing of discipline?
10. Verse 11, what has to happen for the person to receive the blessings of discipline?
11. What is the command of verse 14? Define the word pursue (use a dictionary)? Are you obedient to this verse when conflict arises? If not, why not?
12. Verse 15, Bitterness arises when you do not resolve conflict biblically. Does bitterness only injure the bitter person? Are you bitter toward anyone? If so, who else is hurt by your bitterness?
13. Verses 18-29, Mount Sinai represents the old covenant and Mount Zion the new covenant mediated through Jesus. What are the warnings and encouragements found in these verses?

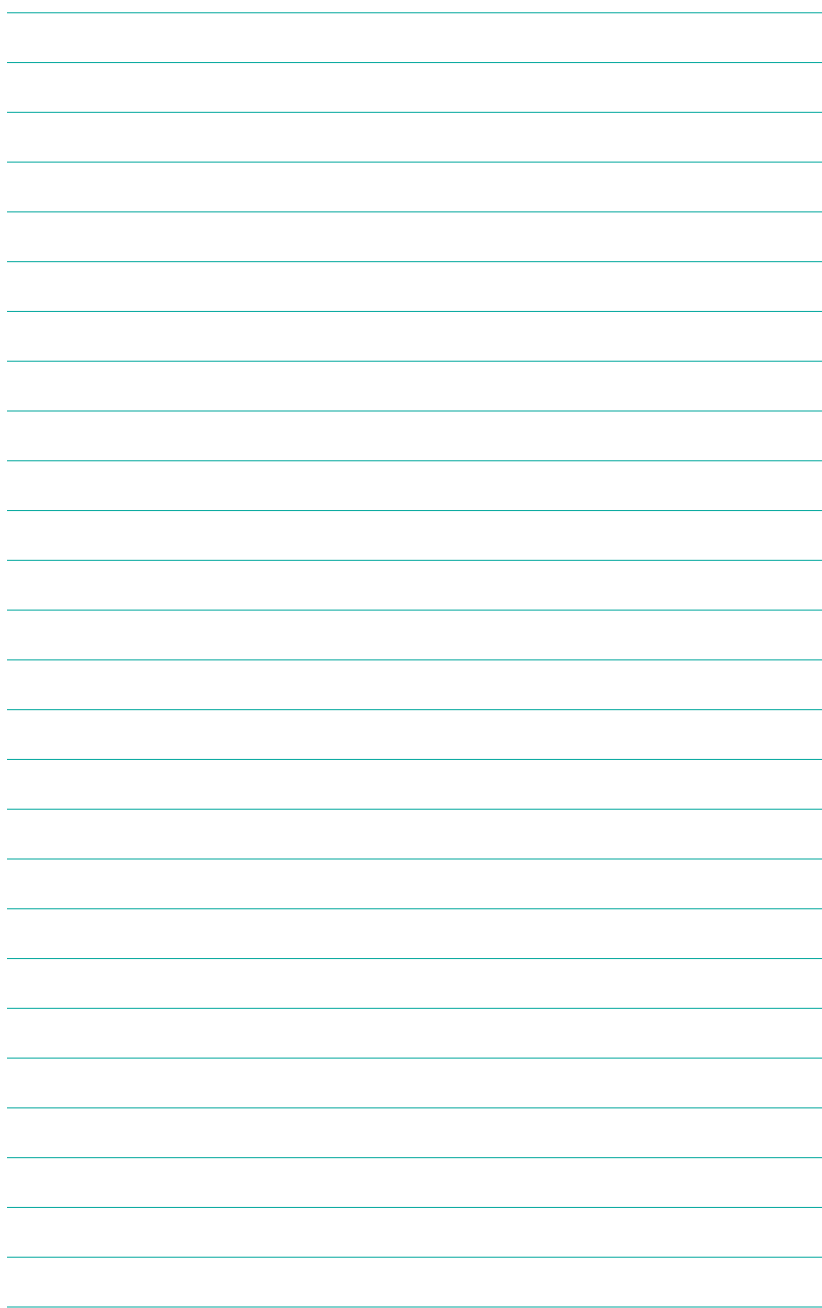
CHAPTER 13

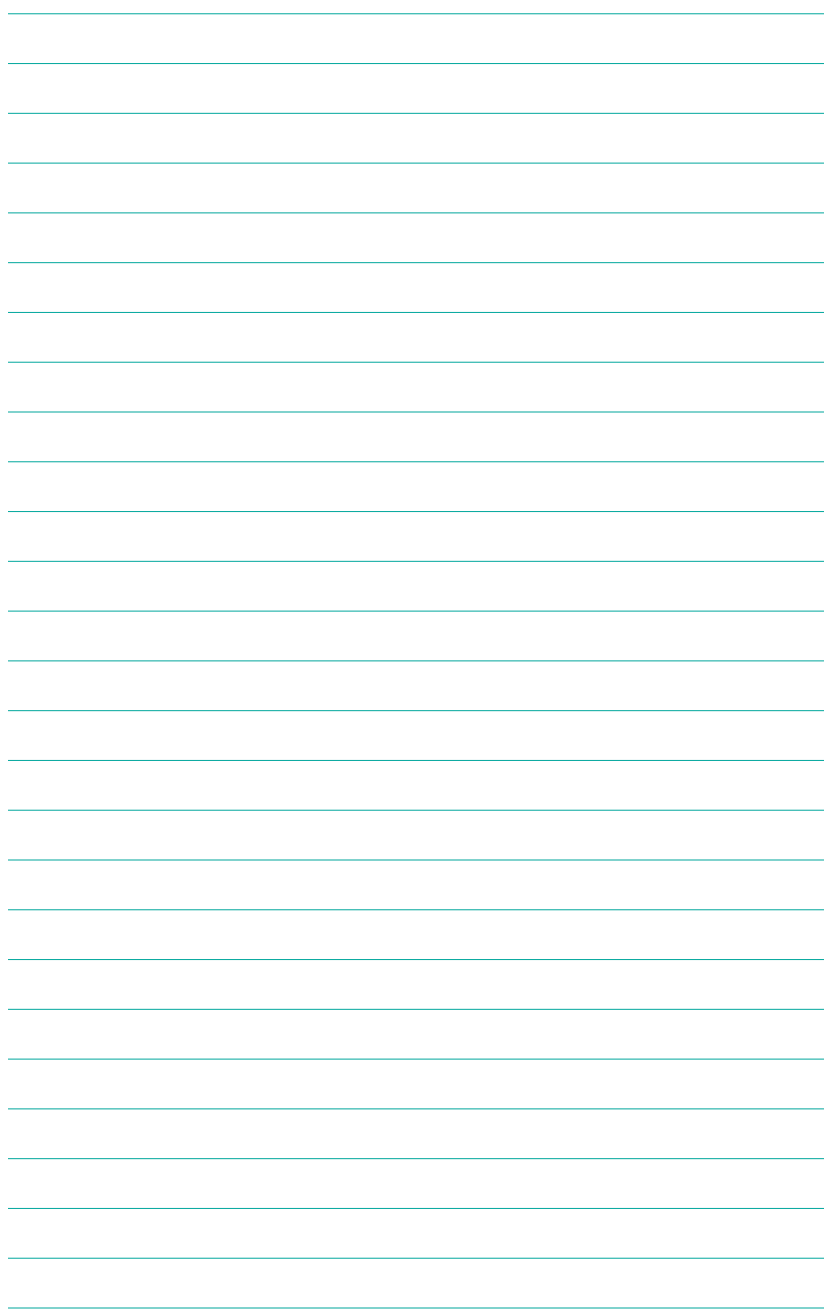
1. Verses 1-6, which of these commands in these verses do you struggle do you struggle to be obedient to?
2. For each command identified in question 1, when you are disobedient what is it you are desiring more than being obedient and pleasing God? Be specific? Will you confess such idolatry and repent?
3. Verse 9 warns us that when a person is struggling with sin or difficult circumstances he is apt to open himself up to strange teaching which he hopes will make his problems go away or make him feel better. Are you seeking or receiving non-biblical advice for your circumstances?
4. Verses 15-16 reminds us to love God and love others. List 2 ways you can begin to love God better? List 2 ways you can begin to love others better. Will you commit to do these things starting today?
5. Verses 17-18, what instruction do you receive in these verses? Are you obedient to these instructions?

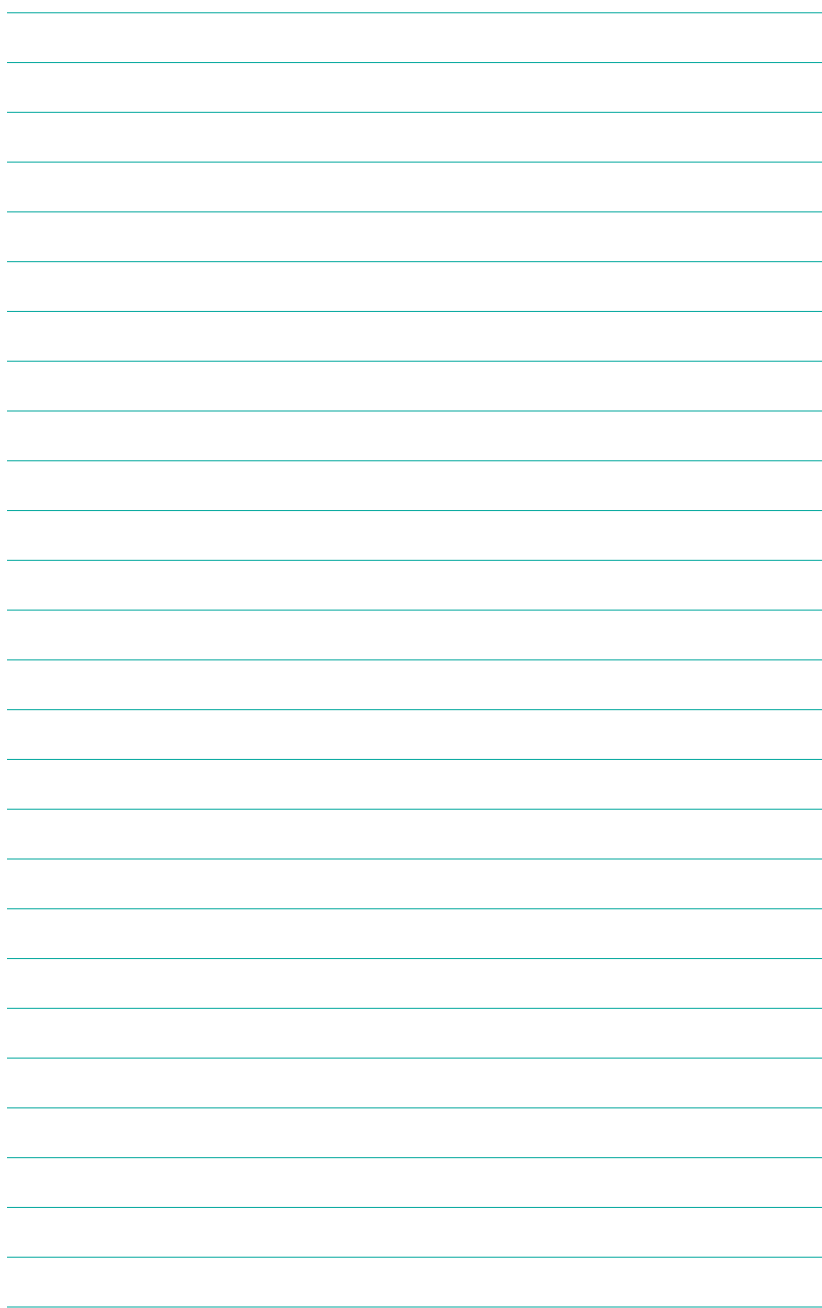
6. In verse 20, how is God described?

In verse 21, what is God doing?

7. How do verses 20 and 21 fit together?







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