

## A STUDY OF HEBREWS

### *Do Not Grow Weary! - Chapter 12:1-17*

#### I. Review of Chapters 1-11

##### A. Jesus Christ is the greatest and final Prophet and enthroned Son of God.

1. Therefore we must pay closest attention to His Gospel... (1:1-2:18)

##### B. Jesus Christ is infinitely greater than Moses and gives eternal, not just temporal, rest.

1. Therefore we must persevere in faith lest we fall like those in the wilderness... (3:1-4:13)

##### C. Jesus Christ is superior to Aaron and is our Great High Priest who sympathizes with us perfectly.

1. Therefore we who have profound needs must fly to God's throne of grace... (4:14-5:10)

##### D. [A short detour due to the dullness of hearers (5:11-6-20)]

1. Warning against apostasy (6:1-12)      2. Assurance of God's promise (6:13-20)

##### E. The mysterious Melchizedek, the OT priest-king, is a foreshadow, or 'type', of the coming Christ.

1. Therefore flee to the eternal, oath-sealed, Melchizedekian sinless human sacrifice for sin (7:1-28)

##### F. Jesus Christ's heavenly priestly ministry mediates a more glorious new covenant (8:1-13).

##### G. A clear conscience, access to God, and true forgiveness comes only through Christ's blood (9:9-28)

##### H. Christ's sacrifice once-for-all has secured the eternal new covenant; nor more sacrifices needed (10:1-18)

1. Therefore let us draw near to Christ with assurance, hold onto our confession, and meet together (10:19-39)

##### I. Faith in God's unseen promises is the legacy of past saints whose examples guide us today (11:1-40)

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* (Heb 11:1)

*"In Old Testament times, [the author] points out, there were many men and women who had nothing but the promises of God to rest upon, without any visible evidence that these promises would ever be fulfilled... The promises related to a state of affairs belonging to the future; but these people acted as if that state of affairs were already present, so convinced were they that God could and would fulfill what he had promised."* - F.F. Bruce

#### II. Text: Hebrews 12:1-17 – Divine Grace to Persevere Another Day

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of (our) faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?*

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.*

*<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives."*

*<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?*

*<sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.<sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?<sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.<sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,<sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.<sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;<sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.<sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (Heb 12:1-17)*

1. In what sense are OT saints “witnesses”? In other words, what are the saints of old “witnesses” to?
2. What does the author say will contribute to our endurance in this race? What steps are to be taken?

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.”*  
(1 Cor 9:24-25)

3. How is Christ the “founder” (leader/pioneer/trailblazer) and the “perfecter” (finisher/completer) of faith? Why is He the strongest motivator for weary Christians, according to Hebrews?

*“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.”* (Rev 3:21)

*“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”* (John 15:11)

4. What is to be a Christian’s encouragement when trials come, according to the author?

*“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. “Father” is the Christian name for God. ... Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption.”* - J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 201-202.

5. How does this text extol the discipline of God as our Father whether we have had good (vv. 9-10) or bad (v. 10) earthly fathers? What is God’s goal in all our discipline?

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”* (Matt 5:8)

*“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”* (1 Pet 4:12-13)

6. Since Esau sought his birthright “with tears”, why was it not granted to him? What is the application for us?

*“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”*  
(2 Cor 7:10)

**A man is humble when he accounts sin as his greatest evil and grace his chiefest good.  
Such a one will hold out in times of trial. – Richard Sibbes, *Works*, VI:408-411.**