

COMMENTARY

Hebrews Chapter 10:

vs. 1-18 Paul states how the law and the sacrifices only were intended to hint at something that would come that would be far superior. He says that if the sacrifices did cleanse from sin, then the people would not to be cleansed again at a later date. They served as a reminder that the people did sin and according to ch. 9 to set them apart.

vs. 7 (Ps. 40:6-8) Jesus shows that God did not want animals to be sacrificed but for people to love and serve Him. This is exactly what Jesus did. In so doing (Jer. 31:33,34) He accomplished what the law and sacrifices had been unable to do and then died as the perfect sacrifice. The superiority of the priesthood is once again shown by the fact that Jesus has offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice 1 time and 1 time only and now waits for His enemies to be made His footstool. All the other priests throughout the years had always had to offer sacrifices time and time again and they were never honored or exalted by God as Jesus has been.

The new covenant is unique in that it cleanses those under it from all sin. If all sin has been forgiven by God then there is no longer any need to have sacrifices. This covenant is also one in the heart and mind of individuals as they learn God's Word and develop a personal relationship with Him. It is not based on the outwardly and external laws that characterized the old covenant.

vs. 19-39 Paul challenges the readers. Since all of our sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus and since He being far superior to anyone who has interceded to God on mens behalf in the past, we are to enter into God's presence with confidence knowing that we will be found acceptable by our Creator through the blood of our Lord. Notice how Paul speaks of the inward relationship with God. Our bodies being washed with pure water represents the baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. With this great privilege and honor of entering God's presence, we should keep up in our faith and encourage one another to remain faithful and meet together so that we can encourage. Otherwise, Paul implies and has stated outright on other occasions, we can lose our place. He now goes on with the thought in clearer terms. If people died under the old covenant (which was inferior) then how much sorer will the punishment be for rejecting a covenant that is far superior?

vs. 30 (Deut. 32: 35,36 Ps. 135:14) Paul reminds the Hebrew Christians how much they have been through already and how God has cared for them. He then charges them to keep keeping on so that they would receive the promise. Paul is confident that they will. He has seen their faithfulness before.

COMMENTARY

Hebrews Chapter 11:

vs. 1-40 Chapter 11 is called the faith chapter. Individual after individual that the Hebrews admired and respected are mentioned and shown here to have faith. Paul is doing this to show them that the faith that these Hebrew Christians are to have in Jesus Christ is the same type of faith that their forefathers demonstrated. By proving this he will show how in reality that they are following in the footsteps of their forefathers and actually see in those things their forefathers waited anxiously to see.

vs. 8 (Gen. 21:12) Paul begins by stating what faith is. Faith is being sure and completely confident and certain of things that we have no proof for (can't see with our senses). He begins with an example. We show our faith by believing that God created the universe. There is no way that we can prove that beyond a shadow of a doubt. There are some supporting evidence but it takes faith sooner or later to accept it.

Abel showed faith in God by offering a sacrifice that was pleasing to God (Genesis 4). The story of his life testifies of the right that he did.

Enoch (Genesis 5:19-24) was taken from this life because of his faith and his pursuance of following God.

Noah (Genesis 5:38 - 10:32) had faith in the warning that God gave him. His faith, demonstrated that men were capable of doing what was right. God could then punish, knowing that men had made their decision to do otherwise.

Abraham (Genesis 11:27 - 25:11) showed faith time and time again. He demonstrated his faith by going to the land that God would show him; by having faith that he and Sarah could have a son even though they were both old; and by offering his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God at God's command. Abraham has been given the title, "Father of the Faithful".

Isaac, Jacob and Joseph (Genesis 21 - 50) also demonstrated their faith even as their forefather Abraham had done.

Moses (Exodus 2- Deuteronomy 34) showed faith in God by doing what he was told to do. He was willing to give up riches and honor to serve God.

God shows how time and time again, He was able to accomplish great things through individuals who would place their faith in Him. Paul states that these individuals did not receive all that had been promised. They will receive all that had been promised when we also receive our reward. Then and only then, all the faithful will be gathered to one place and Christ shall reign forever.

If faith was so important under the old covenant it is just as important now. In verse 6 Paul states that it is impossible to please God without it.

STUDY GUIDE

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10:

1. What does Paul say about the law at the start of the chapter?
2. What is it impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to do?
3. How have we been made holy?
4. What did our priest do once He offered one sacrifice for sins?
5. How should we draw near to God?
6. What happens if we keep on deliberately sinning after we have accepted Christ?
7. What is a dreadful or fearful thing?
8. What does Paul believe about the people that he is writing to ?

BONUS:

1. If the sacrifices under the old covenant did not remove sin, then why did God have the people offer them?
2. If Christians are to imitate Christ, how can they live with the attitude, "I have come to do your will, O God."?
3. Explain how verses 23-25 can be accomplished today?
4. What should Christians do if they see a fellow Christian constantly sinning and why?
5. Are Christians persecuted today as bad as they were when Paul was writing? Explain.

STUDY GUIDE

Hebrews 11:

1. What is faith, according to Paul?
2. Faith helps us to understand, what?
3. What is it impossible to do without faith?
4. What must one who comes to God, believe?
5. Why is God not ashamed to be called the god of Abraham & his descendants?
6. What did Moses choose instead of enjoying the pleasures of sin?
7. What did those who were commended for their faith, not receive?
8. How would these individuals be made perfect?

BONUS:

1. What is the difference between faith and believing?
2. Who are listed in the chapter as having shown their faith? Which is your favorite and why?
3. How many times is faith mentioned in the chapter? Why do you think Paul included it at this point?