

Bible Study Fellowship: Hebrews Lesson 2 Notes

Hold Fast and Apply It

Hebrews emphasizes **Jesus Christ is superior to all as great High Priest**. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, perfectly identifies with divinity and humanity. He acts as minister of our reconciliation. He alone is able to perfectly save believers from sin and death. His loving substitutionary sacrifice atoned for our sins against God. This loving act satisfied God's wrath against sin. His righteous life delivers believers into dwelling with God. His permanent intercession for believers guarantees that they will enjoy their everlasting existence as God intended – in perfect union with Him forever.

Extreme danger exists when people deliberately reject the truth of God, especially after their eyes have been opened to the gospel. They are the subjects of these warnings. The author warns people can live close to true faith, yet have none of their own. Other people disengage from the gospel's claims and community, never to return. What can be done to help? Both groups must repent and believe by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Those who do not repent prove it is not because they cannot, but because they will not. Catastrophe results each moment people reject the gospel they have seen, tasted and shared in.

Tragically, some children never experience healthy physical growth. This is also true spiritually. God gave us the 66 books of the Bible so we would no longer be "infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."

Spiritual maturity requires dependence on the Spirit and God's people. **It is essential for every generation to know, teach, and practice the Bible's truth**. Spiritual maturity equips believers to stand against ignorance, prejudice, confusion, injustice, and deceit regarding the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

The letter to the Hebrews was originally written to some faltering Jewish believers. They were experiencing difficult consequences for believing in Jesus as the Messiah. With Jesus as great High Priest, what would become of Aaron's priesthood? Because Jesus' death is the final and only satisfactory sacrifice, what about the temple sacrifices? The troubled believers had to choose. They had to go forward in faith or go back to their former rules and rituals. As you move forward with Christ, **what choices must you make regarding previous religious teaching, cultural practices, majority opinions, or intellectual thinking?**

Do you think God accepts you because you choose relatively proper conduct? The New Testament calls this belief living "under the law." Life under the law requires absolutely perfect obedience to God's commands. That life is hopeless! In Jesus, "a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God" (Hebrews 7:19). Jesus removes the burden and failings of self-effort. **Christ offers the power of His indestructible life**. Thus, believers in Jesus Christ live by faith in the power of His new life within them, not by legalism.

How do people who want to “grow up” spiritually do so? They train or exercise as spiritual athletes. WordGo offers these opportunities to prepare you to pass along what you are learning to others.

Maturing Christians engage in spiritual disciplines to gain discernment between good and evil. These lines seem increasingly blurred in our virtual realities and secular cultures. Is there someone with whom you could share what you have learned so far in WordGo? Are you actively involved in a local church where you worship, learn and serve with other Christians? How can you better apply what you have learned so far?