

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 8

Hebrews 10:1-39: The Full Assurance of Faith

*For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God
you may receive what is promised.*

– Hebrews 10:36 ESV

*For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise.*
– Psalm 51:16-17 ESV

- **A Psalm of David**

A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- David had committed a grievous sin
- The prophet confronted him
- David confessed his sin

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." – 2 Samuel 12:13 ESV

- And God forgave David

And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die." – 2 Samuel 12:13

- But there were still **consequences**

*Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, **the child who is born to you shall die.**" – 2 Samuel 12:14 ESV*

- And this is what prompted David's psalm
 - An animal sacrifice would be **insufficient**
 - The blood of bulls and goats wouldn't help

- David couldn't **cover** over this sin
- He couldn't hide it with ritual sacrifices
- God demanded more: **Heart change**
- God was tired of "business as usual"
 - He was fed up with **heartless rituals**
 - The sacrificial system had become rote
 - It had all become **ritualistic** and **routine**

"Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices pleasing to me." – Jeremiah 6:20 ESV

"I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats." – Isaiah 1:11 ESV

"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them." – Amos 5:21-22 ESV

- Had anything changed by the 1st Century?
 - Had the people of Israel improved?
 - Were they any more contrite?
 - Were their hearts any different?
 - Was God any less pleased?
 - Jesus didn't seem to think so

*Jesus said... "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but **their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce**, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'"* – Matthew 15:7-9 NLT

"These warnings do not condemn the sacrifices themselves, but the hypocrisy of those who simply went through the motions without any heart involvement."

"...even though God established the sacrifices of animals, these were not God's true desire. **They were not a statement of the solution, but of the problem.**"
– Richard D. Phillips, Hebrews

- **The former system of atonement**

*For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, **make perfect** those who draw near.* – Hebrews 10:1 ESV

make perfect – *teleioō*

- complete, carry through to completion

- add **what is yet wanting** in order to render a thing full

- Animal sacrifices won't cut it
- They bring God no pleasure (vs 6) because...
 - ...they can't "make perfect" (complete) – vs 1
 - ...they only produce guilt – vs 3
 - ...they can't prevent sin – vs 4, 11
 - ...so there is never an end to them – vs 11
- So a **better sacrifice** was needed

- **The perfect means of atonement**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

*"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.*

*Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" – Hebrews 10:5-7 ESV*

- God had a better plan in store
 - And King David wrote about it
 - Verses 5-7 are from Psalm 40:6-8
 - The author is inferring that Israel's greatest king spoke of a greater King to come
 - He would be...
 - ...the servant King
 - ...the humble King
 - ...the obedient King
 - ...the suffering King
 - ...the sanctifying King

*When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, **I have come to do your will.**" He does away with the first in order to establish the second. – Hebrews 10:8-9 ESV*

*"For I have come down from heaven **to do the will of God who sent me**, not to do my own will." – John 6:38 NLT*

*Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes **from doing the will of God**, who sent me, and from finishing his work." – John 4:34 NLT*

*"I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because **I carry out the will of the one who sent me**, not my own will." – John 5:30 NLT*

“Wholehearted obedience is the sacrifice which God really desired, the sacrifice which he received in perfection from his Servant-Son when he came into the world.” – F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*

*“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,**
and to listen than the fat of rams.” – 1 Samuel 15:22 ESV*

- **Good enough to last**

*And **by that will** we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all.*** – Hebrews 10:10 ESV

- Jesus sacrifice was **totally sufficient**
- It **exceeded** God’s exacting standard
- It **satisfied** His just and righteous anger
- It atoned for sin **fully** and **forever**

*...**by a single offering he has perfected for all time** those who are being sanctified.* – Hebrew 10:14 ESV

- Never to be repeated
- Fully sufficient
- And totally effective

- **No more barriers!**

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. – Hebrews 10:18-22 ESV

- The veil has been torn (Matthew 27:51)
- Our guilt has been removed
- Our hearts are clean
- Even our bodies have been purified
- We are holy vessels for the Spirit of God

So, with all that in mind...

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not

neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. – Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV

- Hold on firmly to what you believe
- Trust in the promises of God
- Value the community of other believers
- Model your life after that of Christ
- Live with the end in mind
- See God at work in your present circumstances

- **A call to live as who you are**

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For,

*“Yet a little while,
and the coming one will come and will not delay;
but my righteous one shall live by faith,
and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him.”*

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. – Hebrews 10:35-39 ESV

- Completely forgiven
- Welcome in God’s presence
- A full-fledged citizen of the Kingdom
- An integral part of Christ’s body
- And the heir of a great reward

- **But a word of warning – verses 26-30**

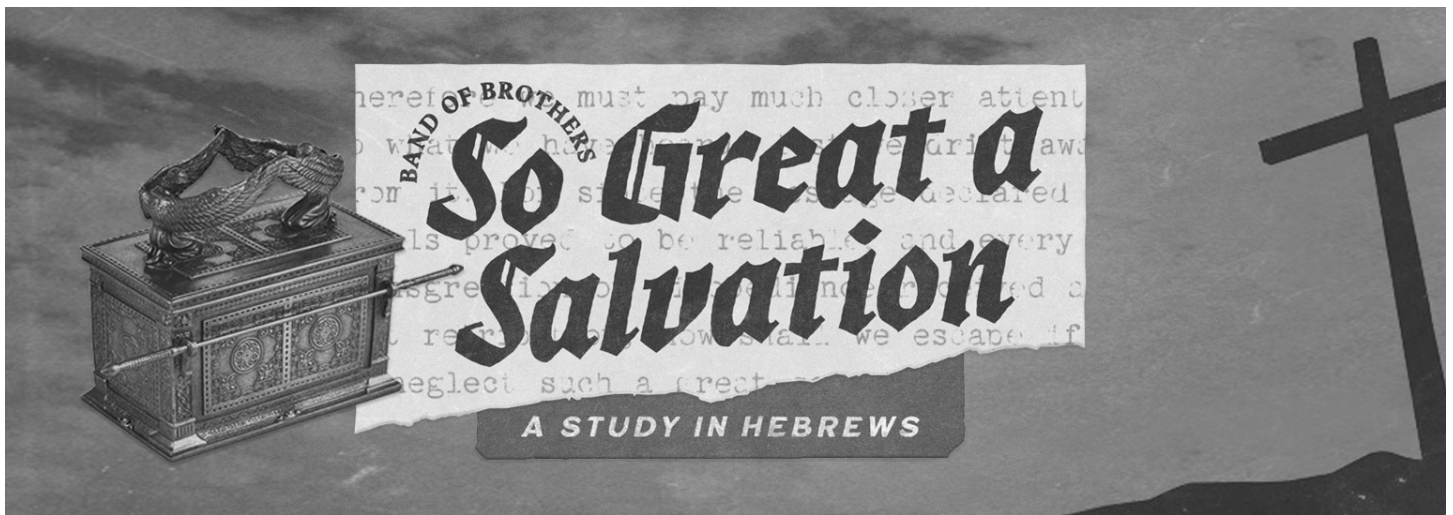
- There were potential posers in the audience
- They had heard the gospel message
- They had witnessed the Spirit of God
- They had seen life change in others
- Their faith was not genuine
- But their risk of God’s judgment was real

- **Discussion questions**

What encouraged you the most about this lesson and how will it change your perspective?

How should the once-for-all nature of Christ’s sacrifice alter the way we view our sin?

According to verses 32-34, how should faith in the Kingdom to come help us survive the trials that come with life in a fallen world?



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SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 9 HOMEWORK

WEEK 9 – Hebrews 11:1-16: Faith in the Future

This chapter is one of the most recognized passages in the entire Bible, but it is often misunderstood and even overlooked. In it, the author provides a definition of faith and then follows that up with examples from the Old Testament. As the Jewish Christians to whom he wrote toyed with the idea of returning to the practice of Judaism, the author uses some of better known patriarchs of their former religion to point out that a right relationship with God has always been based on faith. Even Abraham, Moses, and David all exemplified what it means to live a life of faith rather than works. This emphasis on faith is intended to remind his readers (and us) of the pressing need to allow faith to be the sole means by which we seek a right relationship with God. A return to rules and regulations, a life of self-effort and merit-based behavior is unnecessary and even detrimental. These Old Testament saints all lived by faith and died in faith, placing their hope in the as-yet-unfulfilled promises of God.

- Read Hebrews 11:1-16. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Over the week, read pages 71-92 of Ken's Devotionalary™ on Hebrews.
- Before you do anything else, take a moment to look for every instance where you see the word "faith" in these verses and circle them. How many did you find in just these 16 verses?

Based on how many times the author uses this one word, what would you say the point on this chapter is going to be?

- Now, look closely at verse 1 and try to write down in your own words what you think this definition means.

Make a list of the Old Testament saints contained in these first 16 verses.

- Read Genesis 4:1-12. How does this account help you understand verse 4 of Hebrews 11?
- Read Genesis 5:21-24. How does this account shed light on Hebrews 11:5?

Verse 6 of Hebrews 11 contains another statement regarding faith. Try to put in your own words what you think the author saying about faith.

- Go back and visit the Genesis account of Noah. You'll find it in Genesis 6:9-7:24. What do you see in this passage that would suggest Noah was a man of faith?

What did Noah have to believe about God to pull off what God told him to do?

- Now, look at the following passage in Genesis to get a better idea of what Hebrews 11:8-10 are saying about Abraham's faith. Write next to each one how Abraham exhibited faith or had to have faith to do what God was asking him to do.

Genesis 12:1-5 –

Genesis 15:1-6 –

Genesis 17:1-8 –

- Take a look Genesis 18:9-15. How did Sarah exhibit a lack of faith in these verses and why do you think the author claims that it was by faith that Sarah received the power to conceive?
- Finally, read Hebrews 11:13-16. What was it that each of these did not receive that God had promised?

What do you think the author means when he says, "They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one/"