

Hebrews

11 – 12

The Prophet's Approach...in Hindsight

- 10:19-23 - The prophet sets forth encouragement for the brethren to rest upon the faithfulness of God and the promise.
- 10:36-39 – And for them to maintain their faith with patience, unto the saving of the soul.

12 Points of the Letter

- 1:1—2:4 – Superiority of the message and the messenger; he begins to lay the foundation for his argument.
 - Vs. 1 - Previous dispensations: God spoke through prophets.
 - Vs. 2 – Heir – “one to whom something has been assigned by God” (Vine’s), and as heir, i.e., is Lord – “having power” or “authority” (Matt. 7:29).

12 Points of the Letter

- 1:1—2:4 – Superiority of the message and the messenger; he begins to lay the foundation for his argument.
 - Vs. 2 – Through him God made the worlds.
 - Vs. 3 - Effulgence of the Father's glory, i.e., "The "glory" of God expresses all that He is in His nature and His actings and their manifestation" (Vine's).

12 Points of the Letter

- 1:1—2:4 – Superiority of the message and the messenger; he begins to lay the foundation for his argument.
 - “Image of his substance” – “the word has the meaning of the real nature of that to which reference is made in contrast to the outward manifestation” (Vine’s).
 - “Upholding all things by the word of his power” (Col. 1:15-17).

12 Points of the Letter

- 1:1—2:4 – Superiority of the message and the messenger
- 2:5-18 – The Son, being superior to the angels, became the author of salvation and brought to nought him that had the power of death, and therein gives help to the seed of Abraham.
- 3:1—4:13 – Superiority of Christ to Moses
- 4:14—5:10 – The perfections of Christ as High Priest
- 5:11—6:20 – Rebuke coupled with encouragement and exhortation to promote greater diligence.

12 Points of the Letter

- 7:1—8:5 – The superiority of the Melchizedek priesthood to the Levitical priesthood.
- 8:6-13 – The superiority of the New Covenant to that of the Old
- 9:1—10:18 – Superiority of Christ’s ministry and sacrifice
- 10:19-23, 36-39 – Exhortations to diligence and fidelity in their service to God and the dangers and consequences of apostasy and an admonition to “live by faith...unto the saving of the soul” (10:37-39).

12 Points of the Letter

- 11:1-40 – The importance of faith and how it is manifested.
- 12:1-29 – Keep their focus on that which is above and endure their afflictions patiently.
- 13:1-25 – The prophet, having presented his brethren with ample evidence of the superiority of Christianity over Judaism, encourages them to the faithful discharge of their obligations.

5 Points of Consideration

- Origin of Morality
- God as our Moral Law Giver
- Faith Defined
- What Faith Does
- What Faith Will Do
- Results of an active faith

Source of Morality

- Isa. 5:20 - When you say there is evil in this world, you affirm there is good.
- 1 Pet. 3:13; 3 Jn. 11 - When you affirm there is good, you affirm there is a standard, i.e., moral law, to indicate a difference between the two.
 - In the absence of a standard, no moral code is possible to attain.
 - Opinions of men are just that: opinions.

Source of Morality

- Titus 2:11-12 – The “grace of God... instructs us” and makes a contrast between good and evil:
 - Denying ungodliness and worldly lust...
 - Live soberly and righteously and godly
- Recognizing a moral code originated outside of the sphere of man, i.e., beyond the opinions and/or standards of man, we will present to you the entity responsible.

Source of Morality

- Without a preexisting moral standard, there would be no way to measure right or wrong.
- Man was either created with an innate moral code or learned it along the way through experimentation. Any code thus compiled is subject to error:
 - Nazi Germany
 - Islam
 - Salem Witch Hunts, etc.
 - Crusades

God as Our Moral Lawgiver

- Gen. 1:1 – “In the beginning God created.”
- Jn. 1:1-3, 14 – “All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made.”
- Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1 – Adam and Eve had knowledge of right and wrong.
- Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6; 1 Cor. 7:2 – God established a moral compass regarding the husband/wife relationship.

God as Our Moral Lawgiver

- Gen. 4:1-11; 1 Jn. 3:12; Jude 11 – God had a pre-existing moral code regarding murder.
- Gen. 9:5-6 – God had a pre-existing moral code regarding the consequences of murder.
- Rom. 2:12-16 – Thus, the Gentiles did by “nature the things of the law...show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness therewith, and their thoughts one with another accusing or else excusing them”

Faith Defined

- The phrase “live by faith” is used four times in the scriptures
 - Hab. 2:4 – Faith in God’s word enables the godly to wait with patience.
 - Rom. 1:17 – The just shall live in FAITHFULNESS
 - Gal. 3:17 – The just, those JUSTIFIED, will live by faith as opposed to the Law.
 - Heb. 10:38 – The just will LIVE by faith in the promises of God and thereby wait patiently.

Faith Defined

- Heb. 11:6 – All of which emphasize the fact that “without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him,” i.e., God
- Heb. 11:1 – “faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.”

What Faith Does

- Vs. 3 – Provides an understanding of creation
- Vs. 4 – Offers the best of possessions
- Vs. 5 – Offers the best life
- Vs. 7 – Does as God directs
- Vs. 8 – Believes what God says
- Vs. 9-22 -Believes in the promises of God
- Vs. 23-31 – Believes in God’s requirements of obedience
- Vs. 32-40 – Produces steadfastness and hope

What Faith Will Do

- It will cause an individual to be committed to God, and if committed:
 - 1 Cor. 10:31 – Your life will bring glory to God.
 - Heb. 10:24-25 – Your attendance with the saints will be pleasing to God.
 - Jn. 4:24 – Your worship will be in spirit and truth.
 - 2 Cor. 4:12-13 – Your spirit of faith will express itself.
 - 2 Cor. 9:6-7 – Your contribution will be sacrificial and from the heart.
 - Lk. 19:10; Prov. 11:30; 1 Tim. 4:16 – Your work will win souls.

What Faith Will Do

- It will cause an individual to consider God before doing anything:
 - Jn. 13:15 – You will be humble in life.
 - 1 Thess. 5:14 – You will help the weak.
 - Col. 3:17 – You will look to the Lord's words in all you do.
 - 1 Pet. 2:21 – You will endeavor to follow the steps of the Lord.

Result: Heb. 12:1-25

- Vs. 1 - Faith as a race
- Vs. 2-4 – Resistance pre-determined
- Vs. 5-10 – Training essential
- Vs. 11 – Promises to be had
- Vs. 12-13 – Help to be extended
- Vs. 25 – Therefore, “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh...”