

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: JESUS, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST
HEBREWS 5:11-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Hebrews is designed to encourage those who were questioning their faith due to the hardships in their life.
2. It offers words of encouragement by presenting Jesus as their High Priest. (Heb. 8.1)
3. Are you a tree or a fence post? [Read Hebrews 5.11-14]

I. IS THE BIBLE STILL HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

- A. **HEBREWS 5.11:** *“of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain”* They could not understand biblical concepts.
- B. Is the Bible difficult to understand?
 1. Some scriptures are difficult to understand. (2 Pet. 3.16)
 2. Some can be understood by a child. (2 Tim. 3.15)
- C. If your level of understanding is the same as it always has been, you may not be growing spiritually. (2 Pet. 3.18)

II. ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT JESUS?

- A. **HEBREWS 5.11:** *“since you have become dull of hearing.”*
- B. If you are no longer passionate about Jesus and His word, you may not be growing spiritually. (1 Pet. 2.2; Rom. 10.1)

III. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO TEACH OTHERS?

- A. **HEBREWS 5.12:** *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers”* They should have been able to teach.
- B. If you talk to others about spiritual matters, you may not be growing spiritually. (1 Pet. 3.15)

IV. DO YOU NEED TO BE RETAUGHT THE BASICS?

- A. **HEBREWS 5.12,13:** *“you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God”*
- B. If you find that you need someone to explain to you again the first principles, you may not be growing spiritually.

V. CAN YOU APPLY THE BIBLE TO YOUR LIFE?

- A. **HEBREWS 5.14:** *“those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
- B. The Bible gives us what we need to believe, behave, and be what God wants. (2 Tim. 3.16,17)

CONCLUSION: To grow, you must first begin.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

January 10, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

SIN, INIQUITY, AND TRANSGRESSION

What is the greatest threat to humanity? Is it COVID-19? Is it political unrest? Is it racial tension? There has been no greater nor will there ever be any greater problem than sin. It is what separates you from God (Isa. 59.2). It kills your soul (Rom. 6.23). It condemns your heart (Rom. 8.1). The Bible has three words that describe this great pandemic, and each word while used synonymously provides a different nuance and helps us to have a more well-rounded understand.

The first word is “sin.” The Bible defines sin as “lawlessness” or literally, breaking God’s laws (1 John 3.4). It comes from the Greek word “hamartia” and literally means, “missing the mark.” This is a word that describes us as failures. We have failed God in that we have failed to live within the boundaries of God’s law.

The second word is “iniquity.” In the Hebrew, the most common word used in “awon.” It means, “moral distortion, “perversion.” [ISBE]. The word characterizes the nature of the action. When I commit iniquity, I am doing that which is a perversion in the eyes of God (Psa. 32.1).

The third word is “transgression.” Literally, the Hebrew word means “rebellion.” When I transgress, it is as if I am clenching my fist and shaking it in the face of God. I am rebelling against Him.

Whether we call it sin, iniquity, or transgression, it is what I do when I violate God’s commands, and the consequence is always the same – spiritual death (Rom. 6.23).
CLP

THE APPOINTMENT OF DEATH

HEBREWS 9:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. If we are not careful, the inevitability of death can lead to a defeatist attitude toward life. (2 Sam. 14.14; 18.33; Ruth 1.20)
2. Though death can leave us to sorrow and grieve, there is great hope for Christians who step into eternity.

I. THE DEFINITION OF DEATH

- A. The best way to understand death is to understand life.
 1. Life began when God *“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life”* (Gen. 2.7; 7.21,22)
 2. Life: A soul living inside the body. (2 Cor. 4.16-18)
- B. Since life is defined as the soul living in the body, death is the soul leaving the body. (Gen. 35.18; James 2.26)

II. THE DESCRIPTION OF DEATH

- A. Sometimes death is described in a negative way.
 1. **GENESIS 3.19:** *“to dust you shall return.”*
 2. **JOB 14.1,2:** *“He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.”*
 3. **JOB 18.13,14:** *“uprooted from the shelter of his tent”*
 4. **PSALM 90.10:** *“it is soon cut off, and we fly away”*
 5. **PSALM 115.17:** *“The dead...go down into silence.”*
- B. Sometimes death is described in a positive way.
 1. **PHILIPPIANS 1.21-23:** *“to die is gain”*
 2. **1 THESSALONIANS 4.13-16:** *“those who sleep in Jesus”*
 3. **2 PETER 1.14:** *“I must put off this tent”*

III. THE DEFEAT OF DEATH

- A. Jesus defeated death. (Heb. 2.9)
 1. **HEBREWS 2.14:** *“through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”*
 2. **HEBREWS 2.15:** Because of Jesus, we don't need to fear.
- B. We will defeat death.
 1. How are the dead raised up? (1 Cor. 15.35,42-44)
 2. In the resurrection, we will have victory over death through Jesus. (1 Cor. 15.54-57; cf. Rom. 5.5)

CONCLUSION: There is hope enjoyed by those who are in Christ.

THE COMMAND TO LOVE

In 1 Peter 1.22, these words are found: *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth”* Do we not read in the Bible that we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus? The apostle John wrote that *“the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”* Do we not contact the blood of Christ through being immersed in water? Ananias came to Saul and said, *“arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22.16). And it is not faith that compels us to do what God commands us to do by being baptized which puts us in contact with the blood of Jesus? Peter said to Cornelius, *“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name whoever believes in Him will receive the remission of sins”* (Acts 10.43).

Christians are those who have faith which compels us to obey the commands of the gospel including baptism. When we are baptized, we come in contact with the blood of Christ. The result of coming in contact with that blood is the remission of sins. Those thoughts are summarized in this one verse: *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth”* (1 Pet. 1.22).

The very next phrase expresses this concept of love. 1 Peter 1.22: *“...in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,”* You might find it of interest that the word love as it occurs twice in this verse comes from two different Greek words.

The first word is in the phrase *“love of the brethren,”* and this word for love is “philedelphia.” It is two Greek words put together. The first one is “phileo” meaning, to love as a friend. The second word is “adelphos” meaning, brother. Literally, love your brother as a friend. The second word is in the phrase *“love one another fervently,”* and this word for love is “agape” which carries the idea of desiring what is best for the one who is loved. We are brethren who are to have an affection for one another loving one another as friends. We are then given a command to desire what is best for one another.

Let's put those thoughts together. We have purified ourselves by coming in contact with the blood of Jesus. We did that by having a faith that moved us to obey the command of baptism. Those of us who have obeyed the gospel are now brethren. As brethren, we are to love each other as friends and are commanded to do what is in the best interest of one another, and we are to do it fervently. We are commanded to love.