

Hebrews: The “Better” Life

The Supremacy of Christ:
In Ministry Heb 8:1-12:3

The Message so far...

- **JESUS BETTER IN REVELATION [1:1-4:13]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MEDIATION [4:14-7:28]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MINISTRY [8:1-12:3]**
 - **Jesus: I. The Exalted High Priest [8:1-6] [Outline Intro]**
 - **Jesus: II. The Better Covenant – 8:7-13**
 - **Jesus: III. The Better Sanctuary – 9:1-12**
 - **Jesus IV. The Better Sacrifices – 9:13-10:18**
 - **Jesus V. The Better Promises – 10:19-12:3**
 - **A. The New and Living Faith (10:19-21)**
 - **B. Our response to Draw Near (10:22-25)**
 - **C. The Fourth Warning (10:26-39)**
 - **D. The Great Work of Faith (11:1-12:3) Note: vv 1,6**
 - **Creation, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph...**
 - **Moses – child and deliverer, Jericho, Rahab, Judges, enduring...**

The end of the list...

- We have looked at a long list of “ordinary people...
- ...with extraordinary relationship with God!
 - 39-40 – gained approval but DID NOT receive the promise!
 - God has the SOMETHING BETTER for all of us
 - How long will it take for us to get the “us” of blessings???
- God is NOT interested in making one over another...
 - The fullness of HIS BLESSING is in that which effects all!
 - Not prosperity, but REVIVAL!
 - Not ease and comfort, but PERFECTION IN CHRIST!!
 - If we are a body, how can only 1 part be healthy/blessed?
 - If we are one, how can we hoard what God does?
 - If we are HIS and all comes from HIM what is ours? 1Co 4:7

Concluding the thoughts 12:1-3

- This is not a new chapter, but the conclusion of ch 11
- The “something better” is for us too!
- Cloud of witnesses... not so much an audience, but example
 - Rom 15:4; 2Ti 3:16 – patience and scripture
 - They are not spectators, but “testifiers” – we did it, you can too!
 - For our hope and encouragement in hard times!
 - To know the encouragement, we must know their stories!
 - Remember – they DID NOT RECEIVE and yet persevered!
- Who do you feel most like right now?
 - What story are you “in the middle of”?
 - In the limits of where we are and what we see we need HOPE
 - Even Lk 16:28... hhmhhh...

Laying aside

- *apotithemi* – lay aside, lay down, cast off
- Encumbrance – *ogkos* (1x) bulk, mass burden, weight
 - The training weights of the Olympics...
 - there are things which cannot go with us!
 - Col 3:8 for example... Eph 4:22-25; Ro 13:12; Ja 1:21; 1Pt 2:1
 - Other things? Mt 10:37,38; Lk 8:14; 9:59-62
 - Runners in the Greek Olympics ran nearly naked... all aside!
 - What needs to go for us to run??
- *euperistatos* – (1x) skillfully surrounding, “besetting sin”
 - Puritans talked much about a sin each one is tripped by
 - The sin that is the one you are sensitive to, the one that gets you
 - Sins of pride, education, social standing, profession...
 - The things that “replace” God... entertainment, comfort, etc..

From A.T. Robertson...

- "the easily encompassing (or surrounding) sin." In this case apostasy from Christ was that sin. In our cases it may be some other sin. The verbal adjective reminds one of the ring of wild beasts in the jungle that encircle the camp-fire at night each ready to pounce upon a careless victim.

Another comment...

- Pleasure, indulgence, the tongue, the flesh, pride, possessions, worldly friends, television, sports—what is it that consumes my energy and keeps me from following God fully and wholly—that trips me up far, far too often. We must strip it off or else it will entangle us and trip us up and we will never finish the race.

RUN!!!

- This is not a video game or a spectator position...
 - This race is about endurance! (*hupomone*) patience!
 - Don't stop running... make it to the finish...
 - How?
- Fix your eyes...JESUS – Lit. “look away to Jesus”
 - Where our eyes go, we go!
 - By focusing on the sin, we sin!!!
 - Focus on His example, His promises, His empowerment
- Author, *archegos*, pioneer, pathfinder, see He 2:10
- Finisher, *teleiotes* (1x) completer, one who has done it
- Endured the cross, despised the despising and sat down!
- Jesus is our ultimate example!

The Great Promise

- He endured all our hatred, malice, sin, all from us
- AND YET, He loves and supports and strengthens us!!
- We are not greater than the Master, we are servants of Him
- If this happened to Him, can ours trials compare?
- HE IS VICTOR... and we??? He focused on the JOY!!!
- The 2 great failures can be guarded against:
 - Grow weary (*kamno*, 3x) sick or faint Ja 5:15; Re 2:3
 - Lose heart – fainting in your souls...
 - We MUST FINISH the race with HIM