

Sunday October 2nd 2011
The Letter to the Hebrews
Part Nineteen
Study Questions

1). Heb 6:7 *For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.* To whom in particular are these verses of scripture written to?

a). What do these verses teach?

b). To what specifically does 'the rain' refer?

c). Within the context of Hebrews, with regards to those who had regressed, what would the rain look like to them?

d). So keeping the answer to c). in mind, what is our writer teaching those who had regressed through this metaphor?

e). How can we relate this same truth to Christians from all generations, and particularly to ourselves?

f). Where do we see this same thing taught in scriptures elsewhere?

2). Heb 6:9 ¶ *But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.*

a). What does the word confident have to tell us?

- b). Why might our writer previously have had serious doubts?
- c). What is the last thing addressed to this group before v9?
- d). What is the writer now 'confident' of?
- e). What salvation are we talking about here and how would we know?
- f). What are the 'better things....that accompany salvation' and where in the scriptures would we find reference to them?

3). Heb 6:10 *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.* So what, according to this verse, is the reason for the writer's optimism?

- a). What does it mean that God is not unjust to forget?
- b). What should we understand the word 'work' to refer to and how would we see this from the scriptures?
- c). What does 2 Timothy 3:16 teach with regards to good works?
- d). What does the phrase 'labor of love' mean?
- e). Do you find anything interesting in this?
- f). What does 'shown towards His name' mean?
- g). Where do we find a good description of this?
- h). What does this scripture from Colossians teach us with regards to 'one another' that we also find in Hebrews 6:10?

- i). Within the historical context how would we identify ‘the saints’?
- j). Why is that somewhat more difficult for us to do today?
- k). Read Galatians 6:8-10 – what does this teach us with respect to this?
- l). So, what does ‘ministering to the saints’ look like for us?

4). Heb 6:11 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

- a). Who are the ‘we’ at the beginning of v11?
- b). Why does the writer ‘desire that each one show the same diligence’?
- c). What does ‘to the full assurance of hope’ mean?
- d). What would ‘the end’ be?
- e). What is the possibility that’s identified in v12?
- f). What are they [and us] admonished to do in v12?
- g). What are the 4 key words in the second half of this verse?

5). Heb 6:13 *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Who is given to us as an example in v13?*

- a). What 2 things do we see God doing in v13?
- b). What particular event is being referenced in our Hebrews scripture and where would we find it?
- c). What is significant about this event?
- d). What commentary does the Book of Hebrews give us on this event?
- e). How should we understand Abrahams 'patient endurance' with respect to receiving this promise?
- f). What does this teach us with respect to ourselves?
- g). What other examples of 'imitation' did we look at?

6). Heb 6:16 *For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.* What does this verse tell us?

- a). Why is this slightly more difficult for us to understand today?
- b). Was God's promise unreliable resulting in Him having to swear an oath?
- c). What does scripture have to say about this?
- d). So why did He swear an oath concerning His promise?
- e). What does this say to you personally?

7). Any final thoughts?