

Studies in Hebrews



Lesson IX

Text: Heb. 6:10-20

¹⁰God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. ¹²We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

¹³When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."^[c] ¹⁵And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,²⁰where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Footnotes: a. Or from useless rituals b. Or repentance while c. Gen. 22:17

Questions for Group Discussion

1. What will God not forget? (vs. 10)
2. The New Living Translation paraphrases verse 11 this way: "Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true." What hope does the author have in view here? (cf. 1 Peter 1:3)
3. Are Christians in the 21st century at risk of being "lazy" (vs. 12a)? What can keep us from being sluggish and complacent in our walk with God? (vs. 12b)
4. How do verses 10-12 tie-in with Galatians 6:8-10?
5. The terms "to swear" and "swore" mean what in the context of verses 13-17?
6. What did God swear to do? (vs. 14). How did Abraham respond to God's promise? (vs. 15; cf. Romans 4:18-21)
7. Can we trust the promises of God? (vv. 16-17) On what basis? (vs. 18) What "two unchangeable things" do you think the author is referring to, in context? (vs. 18; cf. vs. 17)
8. Verse 18 alludes to the city of refuge ("we who have fled," NIV; "we who have taken refuge," NASV). What is a "city of refuge"? (Numbers 35:9-29; Joshua 20:1-6) How long were the guilty given protection in this city? What happened to them when the high priest died? How long will Jesus be our high priest? (vs. 20)
9. According to verse 19, can we be "firm and secure" ("sure and steadfast," NASV) in our relationship with God? On what basis? (vv. 18)
10. Verse 19 likens hope to an _____ of the soul.
11. What has God promised us? Search the Scriptures for examples to share with the study group.
12. What do the "inner sanctuary" and the "curtain" ("veil," NASV) of verse 19 signify? (cf. Heb. 9:3; Ex. 26:31-33) What happened to the curtain in Matthew 27:51? What does this mean to us? (vs. 20)