



PERSEVERANCE

Four Warnings

An Outline of the
Book of Hebrews

By Dr. James Walling

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An Outline of Hebrews 1:1-13:25
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Warning #1: Don't Drift from the Gospel – Hebrews 1:1-2:18

How is the Gospel Better?

A. The Gospel is a better message

The Gospel is better due to its character, vs.1:1-2

- * its author
- * its completeness
- * its relevance

The Gospel is better due to its mediator, vs.1:1-14

- * Jesus the son, or angels the messengers
- * Jesus the creator, or angels the created
- * Jesus as God, or angels as creatures
- * Jesus as sovereign, or angels as servants

The Gospel is better due to its impact, vs.2:1-4

B. The Gospel has the only sovereign, vs.2:5-9

- * dominion given
- * dominion lost
- * dominion regained

C. The Gospel provides the only capable Savior, vs.2:10-18

Why “only” Jesus?

- * his suffering, v.10
- * his identity, vs.11-13
- * his victory, vs.14-18

Warning #2: Don't Harden your Hearts – Hebrews 3:1-19

How to avoid hardening

A. Heed this warning with attention, vs.3:1-6

- * consider the faithfulness of Jesus, vs.1-2
- * consider the glory of Jesus, vs.3-5
- * consider the sonship of Jesus, vs.5-6
- * consider the confidence we have in Jesus, vs.6

B. Heed this warning with care, vs.3:12-18

- * take care through exhortation, v.13
- * take care by holding, vs.14-15
- * take care with understanding, vs.16-19

C. Heed this warning with fear, vs.3:1-5

Three sobering realities

1. although rest is promised, it's not yet realized
2. hearing doesn't guarantee final security
3. even when opportunity is present, some still do not enter

D. Heed this warning with diligence, vs.3:6-13

- * because no one has to miss the opportunity for rest
- * because no one can escape the judgment of God's word
- * because no one can hide from God

Warning #3: Don't Forsake your Confession - Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Three Necessary Helps

First: We must with confidence draw near, vs.4:14-5:10

Four reasons Jesus can help us hold fast our confession

- 1) he's one of us, v.5:1
- 2) he's selected from us, vs.5:1; 4-6
- 3) he's sympathetic to us, vs.4:15; 5:2-3
- 4) he's able to help us, vs.5:7-10; v.4:16
*due to his perfection *due to his priesthood

Second: We must with soberness pursue maturity, vs.5:11-6:8

How does a lack of maturity lead to the cliff?

Four Steps

- Step #1. become dull of hearing
Step #2. dullness leads to immaturity
* intellectual * moral
Step #3. immaturity leads to lack of discernment
Step #4. lack of discernment leads to the cliff

Four views

- View 1. the loss of salvation view
View 2. the loss of rewards view
View 3. the test of genuineness view
View 4. warnings as a means of perseverance view

Five questions

1. who is in danger?
2. what is the cliff?
3. what is the danger of falling off the cliff?
4. can a true believer fall off the cliff?
5. if a true believer cannot fall, why give this warning?

Third: We must with persevering faith rest assured, vs.6:9-10:19

*** What we learn about persevering faith**

- * persevering faith is given, v.6:9
- * persevering faith is proven, v.6:10
- * persevering faith is pursued, vs.6:11-12
- * persevering faith is secured, vs.6:3-10:18
*rejection *imitation

*** By what is our faith secured?**

* Persevering faith is secured by God's person, vs.6:13-20

* by a God who condescends to us

* by a God who cannot lie, v.18

* by a God who enters in, vs.19-20

* Persevering faith is secured by God's priest,
vs.7:1-10:18

Why is Jesus a better priest?

A. He is of a better priesthood, vs.7:1-28

The superior priesthood of Jesus is demonstrated in three ways:

1. It's demonstrated by Abraham, vs.1-10

* without genealogy

* without end

* without rival

2. It's demonstrated by necessity, vs.11-12

* O.T. priesthood cannot perfect

* O.T. law cannot perfect

3. It's demonstrated by contrast, vs.13-28.

* different decent

* different qualification

* different outcome

* different guarantee

* different ability

* different person

B. He mediates a better covenant, vs.8:1-13

1. Our new covenant is better because of who mediates it, v.1

2. Our new covenant is better because of where it is mediated, vs.1-5

3. Our new covenant is better because of what is mediated, vs.6-13

* the promise of a perfect covenant, vs.7-9

* the promise of an empowering covenant, vs.10-12

* it's written internally

* it's enacted in regenerate community

* it results in forgiveness

* the promise of a final covenant, v.13

C. He offers a better sacrifice, 9:1-10:18

Three questions concerning sacrifice

First, Why is Jesus a better sacrifice?

* Old covenant sacrifices, 9:1-10

- * earthly
- * closed
- * ineffectual
- * unfinished
- * external

* New Covenant Sacrifice, 9:11-15

- * heavenly vs. earthly
- * finished vs. unfinished
- * effectual vs. ineffectual
- * internal vs. external
- * open vs. closed

Second, Why is a Messianic sacrifice needed?

- * wills take effect when people die, 9:16-17
- * covenants are inaugurated with blood, 9:18-22a
- * without blood there is no forgiveness, 9:22

Third, Why is a different sacrifice needed?

- * because we need one that's rightly placed, 9:24
- * because we need one that's fully finished, 9:25-26
- * because we need one that effectively saves, 9:27-28
- * because we need one that's satisfyingly accepted, 10:1-11
- * because we need one that victoriously fulfills, 10:12-18

Warning #4: Don't Persist in Faithless Rebellion - Hebrews 10:19-13:25

Four questions about this warning

Question #1: What is the warning? ---10:26

- * don't apostatize!

Question #2: Who does this address? --- 10:26

- * Us!
- * human responsibility and God's sovereignty work together
- * warnings are used by God as a means to assure perseverance

Question 3: What are the consequences? --- 10:26-27

- * no forgiveness!
- * no hope!
- * no escape!

Question #4: Why these consequences? --- 10:28-31

- * they're consistent with logic
- * they're appropriate to the crime
- * they're in character with the judge

How do we obey this warning?

A. By heeding, 10:19-25

Why heed?

- * "since" we have access & an advocate, vs.19-21
- * "for" we have been warned, v.26

How to heed

- * Heed this exhortation to "draw near" so that you might stand, v.22
- * Heed this exhortation to "hold fast" so that you might stand, v.23
- * Heed this exhortation to "consider believers" so that you might stand, vs.24-25
 - * Step #1. consider, vs.19-24
 - * Step #2. provoke, vs.24
 - * Step #3. meet, v.25
 - * Step #4. encourage, v.25
 - * Step #5. remember, v.25

B. By looking, vs.10:32-39

We are to look in three directions

First, look back and remember your “confidence” from the past, vs.32-34

- * remember how you were saved
- * remember how you were bold
- * remember how you were convinced

Second, look soberly and don't throw away that “confidence” in the present, v.35

Third, look ahead for you will need that “confidence” in the future, vs.36-38

- * because we live in a fallen world
- * because that's how we receive what is promised
- * because Jesus is coming
- * because God's people live by faith
- * because God's judgment is upon those who shrink back

C. By imitating, 11:1-40

Three truths about the faith we are called to imitate

Truth One: He tells us how faith behaves, v.1

- * it's assured of things hoped for
- * it has conviction of things not seen

Truth Two: He tells us what faith believes, v.6

- * we believe in God
- * we believe God

Truth Three: He tells us what faith brings, vs.2-3; 4-7

- * faith brings understanding, v.3
- * faith brings commendation, vs.2; 4-6
- * faith brings communion, v.6
- * faith brings no condemnation, v.7

What kinds of faith should we imitate? Seventeen kinds:

1) Imitate the kind of faith that produces the fruit of obedience, v.8

- * decisive separation
- * decisive surrender

2) Imitate the kind of faith that looks past your current circumstances to what is promised, vs.9-10

3) Imitate the kind of faith that believes God even when His promise seems impossible, vs.11-12

- 4) Imitate the kind of faith that alters your self-identity, v.13
- 5) Imitate the kind of faith that desires a better city, vs.13-16
- 6) Imitate the kind of faith that learns that God is the author of salvation, vs.17-19
Genesis 22
* to test
* to teach
* to bless
- 7) Imitate the kind of faith that leaves a Godly legacy, vs.20-22
- 8) Imitate the kind of faith that fears God more than men, v.23
- 9) Imitate the kind of faith that values the reproach of Christ more than the reward of this world, vs.24-26
- 10) Imitate the kind of faith that overcomes great fear by looking to God, v.27
- 11) Imitate the kind of faith that trusts God regarding judgment and salvation, v.28
- 12) Imitate the kind of faith that steps out where others drown, v.29
- 13) Imitate the kind of faith that obeys God even when His instructions seem foolish, v.30
- 14) Imitate the kind of faith that risks it all because it believes God, v.31
- 15) Imitate the kind of faith that finds victory even in spite of great weakness, vs.32-35a
- 16) Imitate the kind of faith that keeps on trusting God even in the midst of great suffering, vs.35b-38
- 17) Imitate the kind of faith that trusts God even though they did not receive what was promised before they died, vs.39-40

D. By running, 12:1-3

1. To run well:

- * look around, v.1
- * lay aside, v.1.
 - * lay aside every weight
 - * lay aside every sin
- * follow Jesus, vs.2-3
 - * as exemplar
 - * as perfecter
 - * as encourager

E: By remembering, 12:4-11

- * remember that your fight is not over yet, v.4
- * remember that your fight is not meaningless, vs.5-11

Three types of discipline

1. corrective
2. preventative
3. educational

How we should not regard discipline

- * don't be forgetful
- * don't regard lightly
- * don't regard with weariness

How we should regard discipline

- * as an act of love
- * as evidence of sonship
- * as a means of life
- * as a tool for good

F: By enduring, 12:12-17

1. run tough, v.12
2. run straight, v.13
3. run well, v.14
 - * be at peace with others
 - * be at war with sin
4. Run together, vs.15-17
 - * see to it that no one drops out due to difficulty
 - * see to it that no one drops out due to false teaching
 - * see to it that no one drops out due to carnality

G: By understanding, 12:18-28

1. We understand what we have not come to Mount Sinai, vs.18-21
 - * a place of earth
 - * a place of distance
 - * a place of death
 - * a place of fear
2. We understand what we have come to Mount Zion, vs.22-24
 - * a place of Heaven
 - * a place of closeness
 - * a place of life
 - * a place of security

How does understanding this help our faith persevere?

A. Allow this truth to drive deep into your mind the dire consequences of gospel rejection, vs.25-27

- * think about the fact that gospel rejection results in inescapable judgment, v.25
- * think about the fact that gospel rejection results in permanent removal vs.26-27

B. Allow this truth to drive deep into your hearts gratefulness for receiving an eternal kingdom, v.28

C. Allow this truth to drive deep into your life the response of acceptable worship, v.28

What is acceptable worship? - (Heb.12:28-13:25)

- * it's Christian, v.28
- * it's grateful, v.28
- * it's reverent, v.28
- * it's lived, 12:28-13:25

What is life worship? --(Romans 12:1-2)

1. The basis of life worship, v.1

- * "therefore"
- * "by the mercies of God"

2. The demands of life worship, vs.1-2

- * He demands sacrifice
 - that's personal
 - that's holy
 - that's acceptable
 - that's total
- * He demands non-conformity
 - reject
 - renew
- * The results of life worship, vs.1-2

Areas of concentration for a Christian offering life worship in a non-Christian world (13:1-25)

A. Offer to God a life that loves others, vs.1-3

- * This life is described, vs.1-3
 - * as brotherly
 - * as hospitable
 - * as sympathetic
- * This life is difficult, vs.2-3
- * This life is important, 12:28
 - * for witness
 - * for confirmation

B. Offer to God a life that honors marriage, v.4

- 1) One that is biblical in regard to gender, Gen.2:18-25
- 2) One that is biblical in regard to roles, Gen.2:18-25

Men

- * as men
- * as workers
- * as protectors
- * as worshippers

Women

- * as helpers

How men often neglect their role (Eph. 5:22-33)

- * through passivity
- * through selfishness
- * through indifference
- * through inattention
- * through desertion

- 3) One that is biblical in regard to purity, v.4

1 Corinthians 6:12-7:9

Sex & the world

Sex & the single

- * a gift to be acknowledged
- * a gift to be utilized
- * a gift to be released

Sex & the married

- * sex is a gift to be given
- * sex has a purpose
- * sex has a rule

Sex & the widow

What's so bad about sexual sin? (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

- a. Sexual sin disrupts your sanctification
 - * spiritually
 - * physically
 - * relationally
- b. Sexual sin invites God's vengeance
- c. Sexual sin contradicts God's plan
- d. Sexual sin disregards God

- 4) One that is biblical in regard to purpose, Gen. 2:18
- * for companionship
 - * for help
- 5) One that is biblical in regard to permanence, Mt. 19:1-12
1. Adhere to God's plan for a lifelong marriage
 2. Avoid a heart that will destroy a lifelong marriage
 - * an untrue heart
 - * an unforgiving heart
 - * an unconcerned heart
 - * an unfaithful heart
 3. Accept God's calling prior to entering a lifelong marriage

C. Offer to God a Life that is content, vs.5-6

* "Coveting is the opposite of contentment!"

Why is coveting so wrong? — (Exodus 20:17)

- a. Stop coveting because it distorts your self-image
 - * it gives an undue exaltation of self
 - * it gives an undue heightening of our innocence
- b. Stop coveting because it divides our affections
- c. Stop coveting because it diminishes our effectiveness
- d. Stop coveting because it damages our relationship

D. Offer to God a life that remembers and obeys godly pastors? vs.7-17

- a. because God doesn't change, v.8
- b. because God gave them to you, vs.9-17
 - * to account for you
 - * to lead you
 - * to exemplify
 - * to feed you
 - * to protect you
- c. because your disobedience may derail their service, v.17
 - * distraction
 - * indifference
 - * bitterness
 - * ungodliness
- d. because disobedience hurts you, v.17

E. Offer to God a life that "bears with" God's warnings, vs.18-25

1. "God's warnings function as a sure means that bring about the perseverance of faith in God's people."
2. Perseverance of faith
 - * perseverance isn't perfection
 - * perseverance isn't works salvation
 - * perseverance isn't easy believism