

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: THE PROBLEM WITH HUMANITY

HEBREWS 2:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Hebrews is “the word of exhortation” (Heb. 13.22), written to encourage those who are struggling to remain faithful.
2. The first section of Hebrews brings to our attention Jesus as the Messenger of God whose message we must heed. (Heb. 1.3; 2.1)
3. Humanity has a problem in that we have failed to bring ourselves under control. (James 1.14,15; Luke 9.23)

I. THE CREATION OF HUMANITY

- A. Humanity was made a little lower than the angels.
1. **HEBREWS 2.5:** “*For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*”
 2. **HEBREWS 2.6:** “*What is man that You are mindful of him*” (Anthropos – “mankind”)
 3. **HEBREWS 2.7:** “*You have made him a little lower than the angels*”
- B. In what way has humanity been made lower than the angels?
1. Angels are spirit beings. (Heb. 1.7)
 2. We have been given a physical body. (2 Cor. 4.16-18)

II. THE CROWN OF HUMANITY

- A. **HEBREWS 2.7:** “*You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands.*”
1. Crown (stephanos): The crown of victory. (1 Cor. 9.25)
 2. God placed the crown of victory that is characterized as glory and honor on the head of humanity
- B. **HEBREWS 2.8:** “*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*” The crown was domination. (Gen. 1.26-28)

III. THE CHOICE OF HUMANITY

- A. **HEBREWS 2.8:** “*But now we do not yet see all things put under him.*” There is something we do not yet control.
1. Subjection (hupotasso): To arrange under.
 2. We have not put ourselves under control. (Rom. 3.23)
- B. Our lack of control over self as led to our sin.
1. **EPHESIANS 2.1-3:** “*desires of the flesh and of the mind*”
 2. We all sin from time to time. (1 John 2.1; Ps. 119.11)

CONCLUSION: Jesus is the solution for our bad choices. (Heb. 2.9)

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: info@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

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

November 15, 2020

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

LEARNING TO ENDURE

Surviving difficult times requires hupomeno. It requires that you stay under (hupo – “under”; meno – “to stay”). The idea is that when you are struggling, you don’t give up. You stay under the burden on your shoulders and continue to press on. The English translation of “hupomeno” is “endure.”

How can we learn to endure? In Hebrews 12.1,2, we find the word “endurance” found twice. In this passage, we are told the secret of learning how to stay under the pressure and not give up. Hebrews 12.1 begins by saying, “*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.*” The cloud of witnesses are the Old Testament examples of endurance in the previous chapter. With those examples in mind, Hebrews 12.1 says, “*let us run the race with endurance.*” In the next verse, we are given another example. Hebrews 12.2 tells us to look to the example of Jesus, “*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.*”

In these Old Testament examples, these individuals were able to remain faithful because they could look forward to something better (Heb. 11.13). Jesus was able to endure the cross because He looked forward to “*the joy that was set before Him*” (Heb. 12.2). How can we learn endurance? Do not dwell on the difficulties in your present. Look forward to something better that is to come. It is the hope of tomorrow that gets us through today (Rom. 5.5). CLP

ARE YOU A GOOD FRIEND?

LUKE 12:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible writers spoke often of friendships.
 - a) Jesus had some good friends (John 11.5; Luke 12.4)
 - b) Cornelius had friends. (Acts 10.24)
 - c) Paul had friends. (Acts 24.23; 27.3)
2. Christians need to be careful whom they choose as friend, for some friend can be a bad influence (1 Cor. 15.33; Prov. 22.24,25).
3. What kind of friends do we need to be?

I. GOOD FRIENDS LOVE EACH OTHER

- A. David and Saul had a loving relationship. (1 Sam. 18.1-3)
- B. What kind of love should friends share? (1 Cor. 13.4-7)
 1. A good friend *“bears all things”* Stegei: Literally *“cover”*, (James 5.19,20; 1 Pet. 4.8)
 2. A good friend *“believes all things”*. (cf. 1 John 4.1)
 3. A good friend *“hopes all things”*. (cf. Heb. 11.1)
 4. A good friend *“endures all things”*.

II. GOOD FRIENDS STAND BY EACH OTHER

- A. David and Saul stood together.
 1. Because David was successful in battle, conflict began to surface in the house of Saul. (1 Sam. 18.5-7)
 2. Although Saul wanted David killed, Jonathan did not abandon David, but stood up for him. (1 Sa. 19.1-6)
- B. **PROVERBS 17.17:** *“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”*

III. GOOD FRIENDS CAN BEAR THEIR SOULS

- A. David bears his soul to his best friend.
 1. Saul still wanted David killed. (1 Sam. 20.1-3)
 2. David poured his heart out to Jonathan. (1 Sam. 20.8)
- B. A good friend is one with whom you can share your heart. (Prov. 27.6,9)

IV. GOOD FRIENDS DRAW US CLOSE TO GOD

- A. Jonathan reminds David to trust in God. (1 Sam. 20.12-16)
- B. Friends help us to love God better. (Matt. 22.37).

CONCLUSION: What kind of friend are you?

A DISEASE WORSE THAN COVID-19

There has never in our lifetime been a disease that has ravaged the world like Covid-19. It has been nine months since we first started hearing about this new disease that is spreading throughout the world, and it seems to be surging again. The news reported this morning (Friday) that we have broken another record in the United States hitting over 150,000 cases in a single day. Our governor is talking about another lockdown. The stores are once again being depleted of necessary supplies. The death toll continues to rise.

Would you believe that there is a more dangerous and deadly disease than Covid-19? There is a disease far worse than that which has caused this pandemic. It is a disease that we have been fighting since the beginning of time (Rom. 5.12-14). It is a disease that has infected every single one of us (Rom. 3.23). And it is a disease that carries with it a death sentence (James 1.15).

Think about how God described this disease through the prophet Isaiah. In the first chapter of Isaiah, God tells Israel that *“the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints”* (Isa. 1.5). In graphic language, God elaborates on their condition. From head to toe, these people were covered with *“wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment”* (Isa. 1.6).

What is this disease that has not only infected Israel but all of mankind since the beginning of time? If you back up in the text, verse 4 refers to Israel as a *“sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity.”* They are *“evildoers,” “corrupters,” “have forsaken the LORD,”* and *“have turned away backwards.”* (Isa. 1.4).

The disease that has destroyed the nation and the world is the disease of sin. Sin is responsible for broken homes, wars, crimes in the street, financial ruin, disease, and natural disasters. But as devastating as are any physical consequence that sin has caused, far worse are the spiritual consequences. God tells us that *“your sins have separated you from you God”* (Isa. 59.2). And those who leave this world without a cure face *“everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord”* (2 Thes. 1.9).

We are still looking for a vaccine for Covid-19. But there is already a cure in place for sin. Jesus as our Great Physician (Mark 2.17) has provided His blood as the cure for the problem of sin. We need only submit to His prescriptive gospel (1 Pet. 1.22-25). CLP