week 14

Studying

THE CHURCHAAA

Together

[a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading – HEBREWS 5:11-6:3

Keep in Mind

Though we don’t know much about the original audience of this letter, it’s clear from this passage that they had believed the message for some time by the time it was written. The author is clearly disappointed in their progress of understanding and maturity as a whole.

Did You Notice?

1. What made it hard for the writer to explain things to the readers? (5:11)

2. The readers should have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the time the letter was written. (5:12)

3. How do the mature train themselves to distinguish good from evil? (5:14)

4. What did the writer consider to be “elementary teachings” for disciples? (6:1-2)

What Do You Think?

What causes some to remain “infants” in the Lord for so long while others mature quickly? Is our church life structured in such a way that those who want to mature receive sufficient help in doing so?

Day 2

Reading – HEBREWS 6:4-12

Keep in Mind

This passage is hotly disputed because of its treatment of the issue of Christians who fall away from salvation. Some believe it is possible for a true Christian to lose their salvation, while others believe a person was never a true Christian if they fall away from Christ.

Did You Notice?

1. Describe the person for whom is it impossible to be brought back to repentance. (6:4-6)

2. What is the outcome for land that produces useful crop? That produces thorns and thistles? (6:7-8)

3. What is it God will not forget? (6:10)

4. Whom did the writer want them to imitate? (6:12)

What Do You Think?

1. Have you ever known anyone who fit into the tragic category described in 6:4-6?
2. Whom do you know that you should imitate?

Day 3

Reading – HEBREWS 10:1-18

Keep in Mind

We’ve skipped much of Hebrews that deals with the superiority of Jesus’ ministry as a new kind of High Priest over a new covenant. This passage continues this train of thought by pointing out the superiority of the blood sacrifice Jesus made for our cleansing.

Did You Notice?

1. What could the sacrifices under the old Law *not* do? (10:1,4)

2. What did the sacrifice of Jesus’ body accomplish for us? (10:10,14)

2. What is the difference between the sacrifices offered by priests under the old Law and the sacrifice Jesus made? (10:11-12)

3. What did God promise to do for those who are in the new covenant (that’s us!)? (10:16-17)

What Do You Think?

1. How should the knowledge that we have been made holy affect our daily living?

2. What does it mean that God puts His laws in our hearts and writes them on our minds?

Day 4

Reading – HEBREWS 10:19-39

Keep in Mind

Under the old Law, only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle/temple, and he could only do it once a year. It is HUGE that the writer is claiming that we can enter the Most Holy Place in Heaven by the blood of Jesus!

Did You Notice?

1. What is the curtain through which we enter the Most Holy Place? (10:20)

2. Describe how we should “draw near to God” (10:22)

3. As those who enter into the Most Holy Place, what should we do for each other? (10:24-25)

4. What price did these disciples pay for following Jesus and loving His people? (10:32-34)

What Do You Think?

The writer instructed us to “consider” how we can spur our fellow disciples on to love and good deeds. As you consider it, what are specific ways you’ve come up with to do so? What are ways others have spurred you on?

Day 5

Reading – HEBREWS 11:1-40

Keep in Mind

Known as “the Hall of Faith”, this passage outlines many of the Old Testament heroes of faithful obedience to God. As the writer admits, it’s a very incomplete list, but it is a powerful testimony to the awesome legacy we carry forward as a church.

Did You Notice?

1. How does the writer define faith? (11:1)

2. When Abraham left his home to be a stranger in the land God promised him, what was he looking forward to? (11:10)

3. What did these faithful and obedient ones understand about themselves? (11:13)

4. Why did God wait to give these faithful ones what He promised them? (11:39-40)

What Do You Think?

1. Which of these examples of trusting obedience most inspire you to trust and obey God?

2. What might someone write about you if they included you on a list of those who have lived by faith in God?