

DAVID MACLEOD'S

The Letter to the Hebrews



EMMAUS
WORLDWIDE

Group Study Guide

SCHEDULE

- Lesson #1: Read pgs. 11-38
memorize Hebrews 1:1-3
- Lesson #2: Read pgs. 41-52
memorize Hebrews 2:14, 15
- Lesson #3: Read pgs. 55-67
memorize Hebrews 4:12
- Lesson #4: Read pgs. 71-82
memorize Hebrews 5:8, 9
- Lesson #5: Read pgs. 85-98
memorize Hebrews 6:19-20
- Lesson #6: Read pgs. 101-112
memorize Hebrews 7:24, 25
- Lesson #7: Read pgs. 119-131
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- Lesson #9: Read pgs. 151-167
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- Lesson #10: Read pgs. 171-184
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memorize Hebrews 12:1, 2
- Lesson #12: Read pgs. 201-214
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"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." – Hebrews 10:12-14

INTRO & HEBREWS 1:1-14

LESSON

1

Read pages 11-38 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 1:1-3.

Introduction

1. What are some reasons why we should study the letter to the Hebrews?
2. What are some names mentioned as to the author of the book? (pp. 12-16)
3. What is the most common view as to who the recipients of the letter were? (p. 17)
4. What is the most likely date of writing? (p. 20)
5. Why was the letter written? (pp. 20-22)
6. What was the purpose of the letter and what is the theme? (pp. 23-25)

Hebrews 1:1-14

1. How does the author lay a foundation for the theme of his letter? (p. 29)

A. Superior to The Prophets (1-3)

1. By what means and in what ways did God speak in the past? (v. 1; pp. 30, 31)

2. How has He spoken to us now and in what seven ways is this revelation superior? (vv. 2b, 3; pp. 31-33)
3. What does it mean that Christ "purged" us from our sins and how is His sacrifice superior to any other sacrifice for sins? (v. 3; p. 33)

B. Superior to Angels (1:4-2:8)

1. According to verse 4 how is Christ greater than the angels? (v. 4; Philippians 2:9-11)
2. In what ways does the author show Christ's superiority over angels in verses 5 and 6? (Psalms 2:7; Psalms 97:7)
3. Who are angels, and what is their relationship to Christ? (vv. 7-14; pp. 35-37)

C. Summary

1. What survey does the author provide of the nature and work of the Son? (p. 38)
2. In summary what four points does the writer make as to Christ's superiority to angels from his Old Testament quotations? (p. 38)

THOUGHT QUESTION

How does the general view of angels compare with what we learn in this lesson about them?

HEBREWS 2:1-18

LESSON

2

Read pages 41-52 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 2:14, 15.

A. Warning against Drifting (2:1-4)

1. Why does the author say that the readers should give more earnest heed to what he has just said? (vv. 1-4; pp. 42-44)

B. Superior Because of His Destiny (vv. 5-9)

1. Who will rule over the world to come and what world is the author referring to? (vv. 6-8; p. 44)
2. Why has man not realized his destiny to be sovereign over the earth?
3. What does verse 9 tell us about Jesus? What period of time does it cover? (p. 48)

C. Superior Because of His suffering (vv. 10-18)

1. Why was it fitting for the Christ to suffer? (v. 10; p.46)
2. Besides restoring man's lost destiny, what four reasons are given for Christ's suffering? (vv. 10-18; pp. 47-51)
3. What is the difference between Christ's son ship and that of ours as believers? (v. 10; p. 47)

4. What does it mean that Christ is the "author of our salvation"? (v. 10; p. 47)
5. Explain what is involved in our becoming Christ's "brethren"? (vv. 12, 13; p. 48)
6. What is clearly the greatest fear that man has and why? (vv. 14, 15; p.49)
7. How did Christ "destroy him who had the power of death", and what does that mean? (vv. 14, 15; p. 50)
8. What is a High Priest? (p. 51)
9. What does it mean that Christ was the propitiation for our sins? (v. 17; p. 50)
10. Why is Christ able to help or aid us? (vv. 17-18; pp. 50-52)

THOUGHT QUESTION

What is your personal response to having Christ as your High Priest?

HEBREWS 3:1 - 4:16

LESSON

3

Read pages 55-67 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 4:12.

A. Because He is a Son, and Moses was a Servant

1. How does the writer address his readers, and why? (v. 1; p. 56)
2. What two titles does the author assign Jesus and what do they mean? (v. 1b; p. 56)
3. Why is Jesus counted worthy of more glory than Moses? (vv. 2-6)
4. What is the writer reminding the readers of by using the title "Christ?" (v.6; p. 57)
5. How is it that we are "God's house"? (v. 6; p. 57)

B. Because Rejection of Him is More Serious Than Rejection of Moses---A Warning Against Unbelief (3:17-19)

1. What was the result of Israel's unbelief and what is the application for us today? (vv. 7-11; pp. 58-60)

C. Because Rest is Attained Exclusively Through Him (4:1-13)

1. What "rest" is the writer referring to and when does it take place? (14:1a; pp. 60,61)
2. What are the four "rests" that the writer tells them of? (vv. 1-13; pp. 60-63)

3. What is the nature of the rest, and who are its participants? (vv. 1-3a; pp. 61-62)
4. Why should the readers not assume that God has abandoned His original intentions for man to rule the earth? (vv. 3b-8; pp. 62,63)
5. How do verses 8-11 prove that the rest the writer speaks of is yet future? (vv. 8-11; pp.62, 63)
6. Describe the part that the Word of God has in our being diligent to enter into this future rest? (v. 12; pp. 63, 64)

D. Because He Has Better Resources Than Moses (4:14-16)

1. Describe the dignity of Jesus as our High Priest (v. 14; p. 65)
2. What exhortation does the writer give because we have a "great High Priest"? (v. 14b)
3. Why is Jesus able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses? (v. 15; p. 65, 66)
4. Why can we come boldly to the throne of grace, and what is the result? (v. 16; p. 66)

THOUGHT QUESTION

What does it mean to you that the Word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of your heart? Does it comfort you, or frighten you?

HEBREWS 5:1 - 7:28

LESSON

4

Read pages 71-82 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 5:8, 9.

A. The Function of the High Priest (5:1)

1. How does a man become a high priest? (v. 1; p. 71)
2. Describe his work. (v. 1; pp. 71, 72)
3. Why is the high priesthood of Christ a success? (8:25; 9:11-14; 4:14-16; 10:19-21)

B. The Qualifications of the High Priest (5:1-10)

1. What are the three requirements for the office of high priest? (vv. 1-4; p. 74)
2. How does the author prove that Christ met the requirement of being divinely appointed? (vv. 5, 6; pp. 73, 74)
3. What event in His earthly life did Christ experience that qualified Him to understand our human sorrow? (vv. 7, 8; p. 74)
4. What was the "cup" that Christ asked the Father to take away? (v. 7; Mark 14:36; Jeremiah 25:15, 16; p. 74)
5. In what sense was Christ's prayer for deliverance "heard"? (v. 7; Psalm 22:20-25; pp. 74, 75)
6. What great lesson concerning prayer is there for us in His experience? (p. 75)
7. How does the way we learn obedience through suffering differ from the way Christ learned obedience? (v. 8; p. 45)

8. Define "perfection" as it describes Christ in verse 9. (p. 75)
9. What three aspects of perfection did the author of Hebrews have in mind? (p. 76)
10. What does the work of salvation mean in verse 9 and what are the three aspects of salvation? (Ephesians 2:5, 8; Romans 6:7; 13:11; p. 77)

C. The Consequences of Spiritual Immaturity

1. Why could the writer not develop the theme of the high priesthood of Christ with them at this time? (v. 11; p. 78)
2. What evidence is there that they are not spiritually mature? (vv. 12, 13; pp. 78,79)
3. What do we learn about the Christian life from verses 12, 13; pp. 79)
4. Why are the readers not mature? (p. 79)
5. What is the equation for spiritual growth given on page 79?
6. How can they grow up spiritually and why do they need to? (v. 14; pp. 80-82)

THOUGHT QUESTION

How does this lesson show the importance of the Word of God in our lives?

Read pages 85-98 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 6:19-20.

A. The Consequences of Spiritual Immaturity Cont'd (5:11-6:20)

1. What things are true of a backslidden Christian? (p. 84)
2. In view of the spiritual state of the readers of the letter to the Hebrews, what does the writer decide to do? (p. 85)
3. What does the author mean by saying "Let us go on to perfection?" (p. 86)
4. What are the "elementary principles" that he refers to? (v. 1; p 86)
5. What are the six OT doctrines that make up these "elementary principles"? (pp. 86,87)
6. What does the writer imply by the use of the word "if" in verse 3 and what does the maturity of these believers ultimately depend on? (p. 88)
7. What are the two possible explanations for those who are negligent in their spiritual responsibilities and unresponsive to the Word of God? (p. 88)
8. How does the writer of Hebrews describe those who cannot go on to spiritual maturity? (vv. 4-6; pp. 88, 90)
9. How does the writer of Hebrews illustrate his point in verses 7 and 8?
10. Explain the writer's conclusion regarding these two explanations. (p. 91)

B. The Encouragement to Persevere in The Christian Life (vv. 9-12)

1. What is the nature of the writer's confidence in his readers and his basis for it? (vv. 9, 10; p. 91)
2. When does a believer make real progress in his spiritual life? (vv. 11, 12; p. 92)
3. What are grounds as to why the writer is confident that God's promises will be fulfilled, though delayed? (vv. 13-20; pp. 92-95)
4. How is Abraham an example of enduring faith? (vv. 13-15)
5. When will the complete fulfillment of the promises God made to Abraham be fulfilled? (p. 93; 11:13-16; 9:28; 13:14)
6. Who are the objects of God's unchangeable promises?
7. What is the one thing God cannot do? (v. 18)
8. What is the certainty of our hope, the place and the Person? (vv. 19,20; p 95)

THOUGHT QUESTION

According to this lesson how can we be sure of our future destiny?

Read pages 101-112 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 7:24, 25.

A. Superior to Aaron (continued) (5:1-7:28)

1. Why did the writer of Hebrews hesitate to elaborate on the priesthood of Melchizedek when he first mentioned it earlier? (5:11,12; p. 101)
2. Under what circumstances did Abraham encounter Melchizedek and who was he? (vv. 1, 2a; Genesis 14:18-20)
3. In what four ways is Melchizedek typical of Christ? (pp. 102, 103)
4. Why is Melchizedek great? (v. 4-10; p. 103)
5. What was Abraham acknowledging by paying tithes to Melchizedek? (vv. 6, 7; p. 105)
6. What did the Levitical priesthood fail to do? (v. 11; p. 104)
7. Jesus having been appointed as high priest proves what about the law? (vv. 12-14; p. 106)

8. What are the negative and positive contrasts between the old priesthood and the new? (vv. 15-19; p. 107)

9. By using Psalm 110 in what four ways how does the writer of Hebrews prove that the priesthood of His Son according to the Melchizedekian priesthood is superior to Aaron's? (pp. 108-111)

10. How is the sacrifice that Christ offered superior to the sacrifices offered by the OT priests? (v. 27; p. 111)

11. How is Christ "a High Priest fitting for us"? (vv. 26-27a)

12. Unlike the OT priests who were merely men, in what specific ways does Christ differ as the Melchizedekian priest? (p. 111)

THOUGHT QUESTION

What does it mean on a daily basis that Christ is your High Priest?

Read pages 119-131 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 8:1-2.

A. Christ as High Priest: Superior in His function? (8:1-10:18)

1. What does the writer of the letter remind his readers of? (vv. 1-2; pp. 119-120)
2. What does the title "Majesty" draw our attention to? (v. 1; p. 120)
3. Why is it significant that Christ is seated and also at the right hand... in the heavens. (v. 1; 10:12; Ephesians 1:19, 20; Colossians 3:1; Isaiah 48:13; Psalm 17:7; p. 120)
4. What work does Christ continue to do for us in heaven? (Romans 8:34; 7:25; 9:24; 10:19, 20; 13:15, 21)
5. Where is the "true tabernacle" and what was the "copy" or "shadow" of that tabernacle? (vv. 2, 5)
6. What is the distinction between the two verbs "to offer" used in verses 3 and 4? (p. 121)
7. For what three reasons can Christ not serve in the temple in Jerusalem? (vv. 4-6)
8. Why is Christ's work as High Priest "more excellent" than Aaron's? (pp. 122-124)

B. He Mediated a Better Covenant (8:7-13)

1. What is a covenant, and what is the "old covenant" and what is the "new covenant"? (vv. 7-13; pp. 124, 125)
2. How was a Biblical covenant enacted? (p. 125)
3. Who is the mediator of the "new covenant"? Why is there a need for a "new covenant"? (vv. 7,8; pp. 125, 126)
4. Upon what does the author of Hebrews base his argument for a new covenant and with whom was it made? (Jeremiah 31:31-34; p. 126)
5. Explain the timing of the new covenant? (v. 8; p. 126)
6. Define the negative aspects of "the old covenant". (v. 9; p. 127)
7. What are the four positive provisions of "the new covenant"? (vv. 10-12; pp. 127, 128)

THOUGHT QUESTION

How does the quote from Pascal on page 131 sum up the old and new covenants?

Read pages 135-148 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 9:27, 29.

A. He Performed a Better Ministry (9:1-28)

1. Although the earthly tabernacle was divinely appointed, why was it inadequate?
2. Describe the two rooms of the tabernacle and the furnishings in each? (vv. 2-7)
3. What three items were in the ark and why were they significant and what were they evidence of? (v. 4; pp. 136, 137)
4. What is the Holy Spirit teaching by the division of the tabernacle into two chambers? (vv. 6-8; pp. 138, 139)
5. What two things does the existence of the first room and the veil barring entrance into the second chamber indicate? (p. 138)
6. Why were the OT rituals ultimately a failure? (vv. 9,10; p. 138)
7. Why is the ministry of Christ as High Priest superior to that of Aaron's? (vv. 11-14; pp. 139-141)
8. How is the sacrifice that Christ offered superior to that of the OT sacrifices? (vv. 12-14; pp. 140,141)
9. How does the author of Hebrews refer to those who would benefit from the redemption of the "perfect mediator", and who are they? (v. 15; Romans 8:29, 30; p. 142)

10. What does the promised "inheritance" of God for all believers include?
(1:14, 6:12, 9:15-22, 12:7; p. 142)
11. What illustration does the writer of Hebrews give to show the necessity of Christ's death?
(vv. 16, 17; p. 142)
12. With what was both the old and new covenant dedicated with? (v. 18; p. 143)
13. For what three reasons is Christ a better minister than the OT priests? (vv. 23-28)
14. Where is Christ now and, what is He doing? (v. 24)
15. How does the first coming of Christ compare with His second coming in relationship to sin?
(v. 28; p. 146)
16. At what time could it be said that Christ was both on earth and in heaven at the same time?
(v. 12; p. 147)
17. Since they lived before Christ, on what basis were the OT believers redeemed? (v. 15; Romans 3:25,26; pp. 147, 148)

THOUGHT QUESTION

How does all that is taught in this lesson show our need to have access to God and to communicate with Him?

Read pages 151-167 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 10:12-14.

A. He offered a Better Sacrifice (10:1-18)

1. Why were the kind of sacrifices offered under the law inadequate (v. 1; p. 151)
2. What does the sacrifice of Christ do for the sinner that the OT sacrifices could never? (vv. 2-4; pp. 152, 153)
3. What contrast the Lord's Supper suggest between the new covenant and the old? (vv. 3, 17)
4. How does the writer of Hebrews prove to the Jewish-Christian reader that the OT animal sacrifices were ineffective and abolished under God's program? (vv. 5-8; p. 153)
5. To Whom does the author of Hebrews apply David's experience in Psalm 40?
6. What does the Son of God say in verses 5-7 and when would they have been spoken?
7. What does the author mean by saying that "God no pleasure or desire in sin offerings"? (vv. 6, 8; p. 153)
8. What was the gracious will of God that Christ accomplished? (vv. 9, 10; p. 154)
9. How effective was His work and what was the result? (vv. 10, 14; pp. 154, 155)
10. What 3 things do we learn in v. 11 about the inferior nature of the Day of Atonement sacrifices? (p. 154)
11. Define "take away" in verse 11 (pp. 102,103)

12. Why has Christ taken His seat in heaven? (v. 14)

13. What is a synonym for the word "sanctify" in verses 10 and 14? (p. 155)

14. Who is a witness to the correctness of the argument that the writer makes in verses 1-14? (v. 15) and what clinches His argument? (vv. 16-18; p. 156)

15. What is the encouragement and the warning in verse 18? (p. 156)

B. A Call to Steadfastness Based on a New Access (10:19-39)

1. What two great privileges belong to every Christian? (vv. 19-22; pp. 157, 158)

2. What is the means of our access to God? (vv. 19, 20)

3. What are our three solemn duties? (vv. 22-25)

4. What is the incentive for meeting together as believers? (1 Corinthians 11:26)

5. What are two possible explanations are there for the phrase "fall away"? (p. 162)

6. What is the triple indictment of the apostate according to the author of the course? (pp. 162, 163)

7. What evidence is there of their past endurance? (vv. 32-34)

8. What is the present need for endurance and the incentive for future endurance? (vv. 35-39; pp. 164, 165)

THOUGHT QUESTION

How would you encourage someone to endure in their walk with the Lord using this lesson?

Read pages 171-184 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 11:1-3.

A. A Call to Faith Based on Historical Illustrations (11:1-40)

1. What is the key to endurance in the Christian life? (10:39; p. 171)
2. What does this chapter contribute to the original readers? (p. 171)
3. How is faith defined in verse one?
4. What is the proof of the power of faith (v. 2)
5. When is faith required? (Genesis 1:1; p. 172)
6. What are the two aspects of faith and which aspect is Hebrews 11 primarily concerned with? (p. 173)
7. What is the reason why Abel's sacrifice was acceptable to God rather than Cain's? (v. 4; p. 173)
8. What evidence is there that Enoch pleased God? (v. 5; p. 174)
9. What does the story of Noah illustrate about faith? (p. 174)
10. Why is the record of Abraham's faith so important? (p. 175)
11. What are the different stages of Abraham's faith? (vv. 8-19; pp. 175, 176)

12. What was the greatest test of Abraham's faith? (vv. 17-19)
13. What truth about faith do Isaac, Jacob and Joseph illustrate? (v. 13; pp. 177, 178)
14. Where does the story of Moses' faith begin? What can we learn from that? (v. 23; p. 178)
15. How does Moses' life illustrate that he had faith in the Lord? (vv. 24-28; pp. 178, 179)
16. Compare the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites with that of the Egyptians. Why was the outcome the opposite? (p. 180)
17. What two lessons of faith can be learned from the fall of Jericho?
18. How is the story of Rahab's faith so different from that other illustrations?
19. What are the different characteristics of faith mentioned in verses 33-35a?
20. What do we learn about faith from the experiences of those believers mentioned in verses 35b to verse 37?
21. What conclusion about faith does the author of Hebrews make in verses 39-40?

THOUGHT QUESTION

How does this chapter encourage you in your walk of faith with the Lord?

Read pages 187-198 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 12:1, 2.

A. A Call to Hope Based on Christ's Endurance (12:1-29)

1. In what two ways can the word "witnesses" be understood? (v. 1; p. 187)
2. To what does the writer of Hebrews liken the Christian life? (v. 1; p. 187)
3. What are the three guidelines that the author gives to those who are running? (vv. 1-3; pp. 188, 189)
4. What is the significance of the author using the Lord's human name rather than His Messianic title? (v. 2; p. 189)
5. What does God use to further our Christian growth? (vv. 5, 6; p. 189)
6. Who is the best example to us of one who endured by faith and why does the author bring this up? (vv. 3, 4; pp. 190)
7. What seven observations does the author make about God's discipline of us from the book of Proverbs? (pp. 190-192)
8. How we usually regard discipline as opposed to what the Scriptures teach us? (v. 6, 7; p. 193)
9. Contrast the discipline of human parents to that of God's discipline of His children. (v. 10)

10. What is the conclusion the readers should come to from the author's teaching of God's chastening? (vv. 12, 13; p. 192)
11. What is the aim and the limitation of the believers contact with the world? (v. 14)
12. Why are the spiritual leaders to "exercise oversight" over the believers? (vv. 15-17)
13. Who is given as an example of someone who squandered his spiritual blessings? (vv. 16, 17)
14. For what reasons is a holy life imperative under the new covenant? (vv. 18-24)
15. What are the prospects for the believer, both now and in the future? (vv. 22b-24; pp. 195, 196)
16. What warning does the writer give his readers? (vv. 25-27)
17. What are the motives for endurance? (vv. 28, 29)

THOUGHT QUESTION

What in this lesson is the greatest encouragement to you in your life as a Christian?

Read pages 201-214 in the Emmaus Bible Course. Memorize Hebrews 13:20, 21.

A. A Call to Love Based on God's Grace (13:1-25)

1. What is the dominate theme of chapter 13 in contrast to chapters 12 and 11? (v. 1; p 201)
2. What is the source of our motive to "let brotherly love continue"? (1 John 4:8)
3. How can this love be shown? (vv. 2, 3)
4. How is marriage dishonored and what warning is given when it is? (v. 4)
5. Why should believers be content with what they have? (vv. 5, 6)
6. With what important relationship does the author address his readers in verses 7-17? (pp. 203, 204)
7. How is an assembly of believers to be governed? (Acts 20:28; p. 204)
8. Why are the founders of the church to be esteemed (vv. 7; p. 204)
9. Who should be the object of faith for all believers past and present and why do you think this is something we need to be reminded of today? (vv. 8, 13)
10. What warning does the writer give and why? (vv. 9-10; p. 205)

11. What has replaced the rites and rituals of the OT sacrificial system and why? (vv. 9-10; p. 206)
12. What typical-prophetic meaning did the Day of Atonement have? (vv. 10-13; p. 207)
13. What three observations can be made from verse 12?
14. What is involved for the believer to "suffer outside the camp" as Christ did? (vv. 13-16)
15. What is the believer's responsibility to their leaders and why? (v. 17)
16. For what does the writer ask prayer for? (vv. 18, 19)
17. What does the writer pray for his readers? (vv. 20-22)
18. Why is the new covenant eternal, and why is that important? (v. 20; p. 211)
19. What is the writer's final appeal to them as he closes his letter? (vv. 22-24)

THOUGHT QUESTION

What practical specific "everyday" commands does the writer give his readers in this lesson?