

Jesus Our Great High Priest
An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews

Building on the Foundation
Lesson 7
Hebrews 6:1-12

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 12, 2017

Building on the Foundation

- ▶ Main subject: Melchizedek Priesthood & New Covenant
- ▶ Requirements for the High Priest
 - Deity – higher than angels
 - Humanity – lower than angels
 - Made perfect through suffering
 - A better covenant
- ▶ The outcome: an Heir and an inheritance (kingdom)
- ▶ A word to be heard

Building on the Foundation

- ▶ A pastoral message
- ▶ Purification and sanctification (1:3; 13:20-21)
- ▶ "I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation." (13:22)
- ▶ 5 digressions + 3½ chapters of application
 - 2:1-4 – pay closer attention . . . do not neglect so great a salvation
 - 3:7-4:13 – Hear His voice and do not harden your hearts
 - 5:11-6:20 – Press on to maturity/perfection/completeness
 - 10:26-39 – A terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire
 - 12:25-29 – Our God is a consuming fire

Building on the Foundation

- ▶ A Jewish audience – Hebrews
- ▶ A mixed multitude – infant believers and unbelievers
- ▶ A community confused about the O.T. and the N.T.
- ▶ Need to abandon the Law (7:19; 8:13; 10:1)

Hebrews Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Jesus Christ, God/Man (1:5-2:18)*
3. Jesus Christ, Apostle of our confession (3:1-4:13)*
4. Jesus Christ, High Priest of our confession (4:14-8:6)*
5. Jesus Christ, Mediator of a better covenant (8:7-10:18)
6. Jesus Christ, Author of a new and better way (10:19-13:19)**
7. The Benediction (13:20-25)

*Pauses for warning and exhortation

(2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:26-39; 12:25-29)

Building on the Foundation

- ▶ Introduction: Dull of hearing (5:11-14)
- ▶ The plan (6:1-3)
- ▶ Warning: A special case (6:4-8)
- ▶ A word of encouragement and comfort (6:9-12)

Dull of Hearing (5:11-14)

- ▶ A pause from teaching about the order of Melchizedek
- ▶ Infants – mature – teachers
- ▶ Food for infants – milk
 - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:2 – necessary for growth
 - Elementary teaching about the Christ (6:1)
 - Repentance from dead works and faith toward God (Heb 9:14)
 - Instructions about washing and laying on of hands (9:10; Acts 8:17)
 - Instructions about the resurrection of the dead and judgment
- ▶ Food for the mature – solid food
 - The word of righteousness
 - Discern good and evil

What to do? (6:1-3)

- ▶ Compare with Jude 3 – a change of course
- ▶ The plan for Hebrews – press on to maturity (6:2)
- ▶ “If God permits” – “All scripture is profitable” (4:12)
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 2:2-5; 9-16; Romans 1:16
- ▶ “And this we will do, if God permits.”

A Special Case (6:4-8)

- ▶ A worst case – in danger of being burned!
- ▶ “Once enlightened” . . . and now “have fallen away”
 - Once been enlightened (10:32, 39)
 - Have tasted the heavenly gift (Eph 2:8-9; 2 Tim 1:5-6)
 - Have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:12)
 - Have tasted the good word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - Have tasted the powers of the world to come (Matt 24:30; Eph 1:18-21)
- ▶ The perseverance of the saints
 - A Divine work assured (Phil 1:6; John 10:28-29; Rom 8:38-39)
- ▶ This case: “Impossible to renew them again to repentance”
 - “crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame”
 - 2 Peter 2:20-22 – a dog returns to his own vomit, and a pig to the mire

A Parable (6:7-8)

- ▶ The soil drinks the rain – blessing of God (Isa 55:10-11)
- ▶ Fruitful response
 - Useful to those for whose sake it is tilled
 - Receives a blessing from God
- ▶ Thorns and thistles
 - Worthless (Isaiah 64:6)
 - Close to being cursed
 - Impossible for man but possible for God (Matthew 19:20-26)
 - Ends up being burned (12:29)

Encouragement and Comfort (6:9-12)

- ▶ Convinced of better things concerning you
 - Admits to the harshness of his message
 - Sees things that accompany salvation
 - More importantly, God sees!
- ▶ Fundamental understanding is weak but not absent
 - Faith
 - Love for God
 - Works – ministering to the saints
 - Patience/hope to the end
- ▶ We desire each of you show diligence
- ▶ Not be dull (of hearing and imitating)

A Pastoral Warning

- ▶ Things that accompany salvation
- ▶ Love toward His name
- ▶ A blessing from God
- ▶ Show diligence – do not be dull of hearing!
- ▶ John 17:17 – “Sanctify them through thy truth . . .”