

The Book of Hebrews  
Class Notes  
Session 19

**Hebrews 6.9-12** Here, the author's "tone" turns to encouragement. Often a writer would soften warnings by addressing and assuring those who were considered more trustworthy.

**(v.10):** To affirm his confidence, the author cites two assurances... \*God is a God who remembers....God's "remembers His covenant".. His "steadfast love."

God's justice can be counted on... \*The people's *faithful* love and servanthood.

When God's grace and love is expressed through His people...This is Christian ministry and mission!

**(vs.11-12):** This is precisely what has been encouraged and challenged...Do not be lazy in faithful living and endure to the end!

Again...Do not be "sluggish" ...  $\nu\theta\rho\acute{o}\varsigma$  (*nōthros*)... "Lazy" "Slothful"

The motivation should be the inheritance that is set before them.

"The writer's earnest desire that *each* one...should persevere as a Christian comes out again. Their faithfulness to Christ and practical concern for one another in testing times were inspired by a compelling *hope* (10:34). Now, when their greatest enemy seems to be sluggishness, they need to show the *same diligence*...to keep hope fully alive *to the very end*. A lively hope is the basis for effective Christian living in every context. Those who have this motivation will not be overwhelmed by sluggishness...In fact, they will become imitators of *those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised*." (D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, and G. J. Wenham, Eds. *New Bible commentary* (Inter-Varsity Press).

**Hebrews 6.13-16** The text of vs.13–20 is transitional... Coming back to the discussion about Melchizedek (5.11).

All that Hebrews has encouraged and commanded...Is founded on the promises of God!

Just as God promised (designated) Melchizedek as a High Priest...So did God promise ("swear an oath") that Abraham would be the father of God's people.... Genesis 22.17.

In Jewish history , Abraham was the paradigm of faithful perseverance. Abraham faithfully responded to God by offering Isaac....Trusting God's promise that he would have descendants.

Abraham did this because he believed God's oath.

**(v.16):** Abraham's trusted because there is no higher authority than God!

"Men swear by someone greater than themselves" ... This was a universal truth ... using the language from legal contexts of the ancient world.

Like our "father" in faith Abraham...Believers can live in confident trust in God's character and truth!

**Hebrews 6.17-20** Again, the author returns to the oath God swore to Abraham.

God gave Abraham the security of His Person...His Purpose...His Promise (Oath)

While God has no need to swear an oath...He did so to make absolutely clear that His promises would be fulfilled!

All who place their faith in Christ are “heirs” of God’s promises.

**(v.18):** “So that” (*hina clause*)...Introduces the purpose God had in swearing an oath...Two *unchangeable things* (truths)... \*The Promise... \*The Oath.

God’s promise and oath are unbreakable... Believers can be absolutely certain that God will be true to His Word! God cannot (will not) lie!

Consequently...For those who have “fled” (?)... Likely, aspects of the sinful world...Believers can “Hold fast” to our hope...Rather than “Cling to” this world!

**(vs.19-20):** Another metaphor...The “Anchor” of the soul. A common picture of stability... Our hope in Christ keeps our lives (ψυχή (*psyche*))... “Life” “Person” ... from “drifting.”

And...This hope enters the “inner place behind the curtain” This image takes us back to the Tabernacle/Temple and the Holy of Holies.”

The “Presence” of God... Jesus has gone ahead of us... προδρομος (*prodromos*)... “Pertaining to going before” (Forerunner)...”Pioneer” ... “Scout” ...

Jesus not only demonstrated the way to God...He also made the way to God... Jesus was our atonement... Jesus is the true High Priest” and King (Like Melchizedek 5.6).

“God’s promise and oath to Abraham is certain. As heirs of Abraham, those who trust in Christ Jesus share in the blessing of life promised to Abraham. They experience unending stability and security through the Son’s gracious access to the Father. If we doubt God’s Word, we act as if God is a liar and miss the blessings that flow from a trusting relationship with Him. As we trust God’s promises, we see that God tells the truth, and we share in the blessings of eternal life.” (*The Lutheran Study Bible. Concordia*)>

**(Pray):** Lord God, in Christ You speak true mercy and forgiveness. Therefore, I will trust Your Word and receive what You graciously give. Amen.

### Questions and Applications

- “Christian faith isn’t optimism, a vague sense that things will probably turn out right. Christian faith is trusting—and going on trusting through thick and thin—in the God who made unbreakable promises and will certainly keep them.” (N.T. Wright. *Hebrews* (InterVarsity Press, 2010).