

Lessons From Hebrews

The Greatest Living

(He 13:20-21)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. We have thus far highlighted the major themes of Hebrews.
 - i. Christ is...
 1. Greater than the angels.
 2. Greater than Moses.
 3. Greater than the Levitical Priesthood.
 - ii. The Law of Christ is...
 1. Greater than the Law of Moses.
 - b. Today we are going to look at the last major section of Hebrews.
 - i. Christianity allows for the greatest life.
3. Through the years there have been great men & women of faith who have had full lives.
 - a. Abraham and Sara
 - b. Isaac
 - c. Moses
 - d. Ruth
4. However none of their lives could compare to the life a Christian has for one specific reason.
 - a. We know the mystery of the Messiah and the church which they only longed for.
 - i. **Mt 13:17** "For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."¹
 - ii. **He 11:13** "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth."
 - iii. **I Pt 1:10-12** "Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."
 - b. We are not better than they are; however we are better off than they are as we can look back to see the whole instead of just seeing the pieces.
 - i. **He 11:39-40** "And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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5. Brethren Christians truly have the greatest life based on these truths.
 - a. The Hebrew writer now, in Hebrews 11-13, simply points out some truths concerning this great life.

I. The Greatest Living's Foundation (11)

- A. This life is founded on biblical faith
 1. Faith = Belief + Obedience.
 - i. **He 11:1, 6** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (NKJV)
- B. Examples of biblical faith abound
 1. Abel (4)
 2. Enoch (5)
 3. Noah (7)
 4. Abraham (8-10, 17-19)
 5. Sarah (11-12)
 6. Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Israelites, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets... (13ff)
- C. Thus we see a foundation for the greatest life possible
 1. It is founded in biblical faith.
 - i. **Ro 1:16-17** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith.'"

II. The Greatest Living's Requirement (12)

- A. There are a number of things we will discuss as expectations in our next point
 1. Things such as...
 - i. Hospitality, moral purity, submission...
- B. All those things "need" or "require" something to succeed...endurance
 1. The Hebrew writer makes it abundantly clear "every" Christian requires endurance to make it to the end.
 - i. **He 12:1-3** "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
- C. Specifically, however, we are to endure discipline
 1. **He 12:7** "It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"
 - i. "The writer seems to be stating that their trials are indeed God's means of chastening them. It is not a means of punishment, but a means of discipline." (Notes on Hebrews by Parrish, Eddie pg. 122)
 2. The greatest life requires endurance through trials...

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D. Thus...

1. If we want to have the greatest life on earth one can have we must have endurance and finish the race, leaning from our mistakes by God's discipline.

III. The Greatest Living's Plea (13)

A. Here we find the writers "plea" concerning the greatest life one can have

1. In other words what Christians need to "do" to accomplish having the greatest life on earth one can have.

B. Keep in mind the writer has built up the foundation and requirement

1. Faith is the foundation and endurance is the requirement.

C. Now the writer expands and details some general specifics.

1. Christians are to...

- i. Be hospitable (1-3, 16)
- ii. Be morally pure (4)
- iii. Be content (5-6)
- iv. Be submissive (7, 17)
- v. Be not deceived (8-9)
- vi. Be looking to heaven (14)
- vii. Praise God (15)

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren how very blessed we are to be living today.

- a. In these "last days" let us live the greatest life possible.

2. Question: Are you living the greatest life possible?

- a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
- b. If not why not?

3. Invitation

a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.

- i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.

- i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
- ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
- iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
- iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
- v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
- vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**