

Hebrews Part One

Lesson #17, Chapter 4:12-16

1. This week's lesson is a continuation of what we began studying last week so we need to review the information in the previous verses to understand what the author of Hebrews is communicating to us. From vss. 1-11 explain the author's train of thought through the passage. It may help to review the last two week's lessons.

2. In vs. 11 the author of Hebrews writes about being diligent to enter God's rest and the dangers of following the Israelites in their unbelief and disobedience. Then in vs. 12 he introduces the Word of God to his discussion. What is the connection from vs. 11 to vs. 12? What does the Word of God, as described here in vs. 12, have to do with unbelief and disobedience?

3. What are the characteristics of God's Word from vs. 12?

4. Define *living* [Strong's #2198 (KJV *quick*)]. Also look up 1 Pet. 1:23 to see how the Word is used there.
 - a. What are some benefits for you from this *living* Word?

5. Define *active* [Strong's #1756 (KJV *powerful*)].
 - a. What are some benefits for you from this Word being *active* or *powerful*?

6. Just how sharp is the Word of God? Look at vs. 12. How far is it able to enter into your heart?
 - a. What are some benefits for you from this *sharp* and *piercing* Word?

7. Look up the following verses to see some of the ways the Word of God can aid you in your journey toward heaven. See Ps. 1:1-3; 119:9-11, 28, 105, 107; Jer. 23:29; Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess. 2:13; and 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

8. The author repeatedly warns the people, *Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts*. God is not speaking to us in the way He did to the Israelites and some might wonder how they can hear God's voice correctly in order to enter into His rest. How can we hear His voice today (vs. 12)? How is that a comfort to you as your journey toward heaven?

9. There is a two-fold screening of our hearts. The first is the Word of God. The second is stated in vs. 13. What is it? How comprehensive is this screening of our souls?

10. List what you learn from the following verses: 1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Chron. 28:9; Ps. 90:8; 139:1-24.

11. How can verses 12-13 be an encouragement to you as you seek to apply the admonition, *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience (4:11)?*

12. Not only do we have the Word of God and God Himself to guide, protect, and reprove us, we also have another helper in vs. 14. Who is it and what do you learn about him?

13. What does the author of Hebrews intend that knowledge to do for us according to vs. 14?

14. Look up the following verses about *holding fast* our confession: Luke 8:15; 1 Cor. 15:2; Phil. 2:16; Col. 2:19; 1 Thess. 5:21; Titus 1:9; Heb. 3:6, 14; 4:14; 10:23; Rev. 2:13, 25; 3:11.

15. Why would you hold tight to something?

16. While we hold fast to our confession of faith, what is God doing for us? See Jn. 6:37-40; 10:27-29.

17. What is unique about our high priest according to vs. 15? See also Is. 42:3; 53:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Jn. 3:5.

18. What should that knowledge about your Savior motivate you to do (vs. 16)?

19. Review what we have learned from vss. 1-15 to answer: what kind of person has *confidence* to draw near to God's throne?

20. What happens when we do go to the throne of grace? See vs. 16.
21. There is nothing to hide; everything has been laid bare before the Lord. Our salvation is not dependent upon us but upon our great High Priest, Jesus, who with compassion ministers to us and goes to our Father on our behalf so that we can enter into His presence free from fear or condemnation! Oh, draw near, draw near! You will receive mercy and grace to help you. Write a prayer in response to these truths.

Behold The Throne Of Grace
by John Newton

Behold the throne of grace,
The promise calls us near,
There Jesus shows a smiling face
And waits to answer prayer.

That rich atoning blood,
Which sprinkled round we see,
Provides for those who come to God
An all prevailing plea.

My soul ask what thou wilt,
Thou canst not be too bold;
Since His own blood for thee He spilt,
What else can He withhold?

Beyond thy utmost wants
His love and pow'r can bless;
To praying souls He always grants,
More than they can express.

Since 'tis the Lord's command,
My mouth I open wide;
Lord open Thou Thy bounteous hand,
That I may be supplied.

Thine image, Lord, bestow,
Thy presence and Thy love;
I ask to serve Thee here below,
And reign with Thee above.

Teach me to live by faith,
Conform my will to Thine;
Let me victorious be in death,
And then in glory shine.

If Thou these blessings give,
And wilt my portion be;
Cheerful the world's poor toys I leave,
To them who know not Thee.