

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**LOOKING DILIGENTLY...LEST ANY ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGING UP TROUBLE YOU**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 8, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **HEBREWS 12:9-15**

**Hebrews 12:14-15, Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. As we approach the **Book of Hebrews**, we will find the first ten chapters reveal that Christ is better than the Old Testament rituals.
- b. The last section of this epistle is practical whereas the first section is primarily doctrinal. It shows that Christ brings better benefits and privileges.
- c. **We need to keep in mind that it was written primarily to Hebrew believers who stood on the threshold of two dispensations; the law that had come to an end and sacrifices were meaningless after Christ went to the cross, however, the dispensation of grace is where God is giving righteousness for our belief is now coming into effect. Hebrews 1:1-3, God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3: Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**
- d. **Hebrews** ranks along with **Romans**, which is excelled by no other book.
- e. I want us to understand the teachings of the Scripture as it is rightly divided, and we must be incredibly careful to rightly divide the **Book of Hebrews**. **2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**
- f. **Romans 11:2** says, **God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. . .**
- g. It is very clear in scripture that Christ Himself is the vine and Israel is the branch. **John 15:5, I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**
- h. The church has not usurped the place of Israel.
- i. God made promises to Israel that He will literally fulfill at His second coming.
- j. We cannot take the promises God made to Israel and spiritualize them and apply them to the Church.
- k. Israel is God's time clock and there is a purpose for the Nation Israel in God's future program. Worthy to note, the time clock is in effect when Israel is in the land.
- l. God is calling out people for His name. These people are called "the church," composed of both Jew and Gentile. **Acts 15:14, Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.**
- m. When this process is completed, God will start the first phase of His second coming where He will take His church out of this world. That is the rapture.
- n. At the second phase of His second coming, which is called the Revelation, **He will fulfill all the promises He made to Israel and the Gentile world.**
- o. There are some key themes from the **Book of Hebrews**:

1. Christianity is more than a religion; it is a relationship with Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**
  2. To be victorious we must run life's race with our eyes on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:13-14, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**
  3. We can give our temptations to Jesus; He has already faced all of them and won the victory. **Hebrews 4:15, For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**
  4. God desires His children to give strength of testimony to each other.
  5. Only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from our sins.
- p. Let us talk about the authorship of **Hebrews**.
1. Bible scholars have debated over the authorship of the **Book of Hebrews**.
  2. I cannot be dogmatic as to who wrote the **Book Of Hebrews**. I want to emphasize all scripture is God breathed and Holy men of God wrote as they were guided by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:21, For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**
  3. With respect of the authorship of the **Book of Hebrews** I cite several passages of scripture for your consideration.
    - a. We know the writer had been in bonds. **Hebrews 10:34, For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and enduring substance.**
    - b. We know the **Book of Hebrews** was written from Italy. **Hebrews 13:24, Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.**
    - c. We know the companion of the writer was Timothy. **Hebrews 13:23, Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.**

### 3. SEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

#### f. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us,...

1. **Hebrews 12:9, Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?**
2. This drops dynamite on us and tells us we are corrected by our earthly father and mothers and we give reverence to them.
3. Most of the time we do not give reverence to them when it is happening to us. My mother said many times that this will hurt her more than it hurts me, and she is doing it because she loved me.
4. At that time, it did not appear to be love. She was trying to mold me and make me what God wanted me to be.
5. When you look back from the positive side you see that every spanking was needed.
6. Sometimes there were lectures and discussions and talk that molded and shaped us into what we needed to be.
7. When we were younger, we thought our parents were just wasting time.
8. The Bible says if you give your earthly parents reverence you will give your Heavenly Father the reverence He deserves. **Exodus 20:12, Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**
9. When we are disobedient our Heavenly Father needs to discipline us.
10. That is the reason why we have the program we have here at Chesswood. To bring our children up in the discipline of the Lord. If they do not obey, they might not be able to come. We cannot spend all our time trying to corral the same ones who are making a fuss and not obeying. **Proverbs 22:6, Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

#### g. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure:...

1. **Hebrews 12:10, For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.**

2. Mom and dad have only a small window where discipline can be enforced.
3. I am a father and I do not get involved in the business of my grown kids. But I did at one time have a window in which I could mold them.
4. Our Heavenly Father continues to mold us. **1 Peter 1:16, Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.** He expects for us to be disciplined and it is not for a short period of time; it is for our whole life.
5. God is molding us to be conformed to the image of His Son Christ Jesus. **Romans 8:29, For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**h. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous,...**

1. **Hebrews 12:11, Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**
2. In our school system, unless we have discipline in the classroom there is no learning that can take place.
3. When the teacher must stop fifty times and say be quiet, it interrupts the learning of other students.
4. In the church, there are many who should be here learning but they thumb through the Bible and try to find mistakes of the pastor and faults in other members.
5. Why don't you just listen? Then once you go home you can check up on the pastor. (This requires studying your Bible, rightly divided.)
6. **Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous,** - None of us appreciate the chastening we experience at the time it is given.
7. Notice that **afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.** - If we are exercised thereby, we are ready to run the race.
8. What makes a person run a race and win is endurance.
9. We must endure certain things to win. We must go through discipline and training. This is what God is talking about.
10. **Hebrews 12:5, And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:** - When someone is attempting to correct us we need to be willing to listen.
11. My parents and my wife's parents instilled in us the fact that we were to listen. **1 Thessalonians 4:11, And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;**
12. **Nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:** - When we are rebuked of the Lord Jesus Christ and chastening comes, we need to realize that it is God attempting to set us on the straight and narrow.
13. If we do not accept that, then we miss the point that God is trying to teach us.
14. **Hebrews 12:7, If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?** - There is a danger in not responding to what God is doing. We take the passive approach and say oh this is what the Lord is doing. That is not what it is about.
15. When we are in the valley, we need to understand that there is either a positive or negative attitude. If it is positive, we learn the lesson if it is negative, we learn nothing and many times continue in our sin.
16. **Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.** - The thing we are trying to get through is that the time we can win is in this life.
17. I do believe that God has intended for believers to have the abundant life. **John 10:10, The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**
18. Many people say when they get to Heaven everything is going to be all right. If it is not good enough down here on earth, then what are we going to do when we get to Heaven? **1 Corinthians 9:27, But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. Psalms 23:4-6, Yea,**

*though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

19. We are to bear out the Christian testimony. We are not to learn the same lesson repeatedly. Once we learn it, we need to build on it.
20. We exercise our discipline when we are consistent with the things of God. If we start a ministry we need to finish it until God decides to move us somewhere else.
21. The minute a believer hits opposition they are off and doing something else. This is not God's way of handling things.

**i. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down,...**

1. **Hebrews 12:12, Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;**
2. Do not go through life complaining and griping with a negative attitude. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Philippians 4:8, Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**
3. As a matter of fact, God wiped out a whole generation for complaining. **Hebrews 3:9-11, When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10: Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11: So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)**
4. Why don't we just accept the will of God knowing full well that we are in His Word and His will that we do not have to have feeble knees? We do not have to go around with our head hanging down.
5. **The most negative people on earth are those who claim to know Jesus as Saviour.** There is no reason for the negativity.
6. There are so many blessings He provides for. The only thing we need to do is count our blessings.

**j. And make straight paths for your feet,...**

1. **Hebrews 12:13, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.**
2. We walk through this Christian life; we run the race. God says we are to make straight paths.
3. We are to yield to God putting Him first in our lives and walking according to the Preserved Word of God. **Psalms 119:133, Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.**
4. You cannot know the will of God without being in the Preserved Word of God. **John 7:17, If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.**
5. Biblical Commentaries will not get you in the right arena and put you in the right direction. **2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Psalms 119:130, The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.**

**k. Follow peace with all men, and holiness.**

1. **Hebrews 12:14, Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**
2. We should not try to act holy but the first thing we must do is realize God has a simple plan of salvation.
3. When we come to know Jesus as Saviour and get into fellowship with God, we can follow peace with all men.
4. **Matthew 5:44, But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**
5. No man can achieve holiness. We must realize that Jesus Christ is the one who is Holy and

Righteous. **Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

6. We can never break peace with God it is a relationship, it is a transaction between God the Father and God the Son and God The Holy Spirit. We can, however, break the peace of God which is fellowship.
7. If we get out of fellowship with Him, then we have no peace.
8. The most miserable person is the Christian who is outside of God's will and fellowship.
9. **Follow peace with all men**, - we are not to argue and fight over the Preserved Word of God, we are taught to be saved, born again and attempt to win men and woman to Christ. We must accept the word of God as a little child and submit to it as our final authority. **Psalms 119:160, Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Romans 3:4, God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.**
10. We are also to strengthen the saints with our testimony.
11. Always remember we do not come to church for other people; we come for ourselves and for God's glory.

**I. Looking diligently...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you,...**

1. **Hebrews 12:15, Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**
2. **"Looking diligently"** refers to direction and focus in one's life **Hebrews 12:2, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**
3. **"lest any man fail of the grace of God"**-we must understand that this does not speak of apostasy but refers to loosing ones focus if we take our eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ. As one looks in the mirror it is easy to see others rather than our selves. We must remember that it is by God's grace that we are saved and none of us are worthy of any glory because there is no good in us. **Jeremiah 17:9, The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**
4. **"lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you"**- There is an old saying that is not in the Bible that one rotten apple can spoil a barrel. We must avoid becoming bitter. Even as we look at saints that are not reflecting The Lord Jesus Christ. Paul commands us **Philippians 3:13, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

**4. CONCLUSION**

- a. Do you know the Saviour my friend?
- b. If you do not know Jesus as personal Saviour today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. It is a simple matter in coming to Christ:
- d. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- e. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- f. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- g. Would you please stand?

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