

"Faith and the Work of Christ"

The Letter to the Hebrews: This Group of People (Mostly Christians) who were facing the possibility for their FAITH TO FAIL— [either because of an increasing Feeling of HOPELESSNESS or due to a RIVAL BELIEF SYSTEM (the Adoration of ANGELS or Devotion to MOSES)]

Heb 10:23-25, 32-39; 12:3

- Do You Need to be "STIRRED UP"?
- Are You Lacking the Energy/Desire for FELLOWSHIP?
- Are you Having a "Hard Struggle w/ SUFFERING"?
- Facing "Public Reproach"? (those tormented by FEAR OF MAN struggles)
- Have you "Lost Property" or suffered a Meaningful SETBACK?

How Does the BIBLE Seek to FIX the Discouraged... the Depressed... the Despondent? the Letter of HEBREWS!!"

How Does Hebrews Accomplish the BOLSTERING OF FAITH?

Heb 12:1-2 Let us do what those in the HALL OF FAITH did— Set Our Focus on Christ

— 2 Facets Focused On: (1) The Person of Christ (2) The WORK of Christ

... Is This a Good Motivational Approach?

2 Features in Hebrews that Highlight the Work of Christ

- (1) The Priesthood
- (2) The Sacrificial System

(1) FAITH EFFECTED BY THE WORK OF CHRIST OUR PRIEST

Heb 4:14 - 5:6

v. 14 "Since... let us" — a Cause & Effect Statement; this truth ("Since") should produce a response ("Let us")

v. 16 "Let us do what? — "DRAW NEAR"

The Effect of His Priesthood on us is ACCESS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

... Compare this to **Is 59**

Heb 7:23-28

v. 24-25 a Ministry That Will Never Diminish or Die

v. 25 Save to the Uttermost

(2) FAITH EFFECTED BY THE WORK OF CHRIST OUR SACRIFICE

Heb 9:11-22

v. 12 What is "Eternal Redemption"? — The Ransom Price has FOREVER been Paid; there's nothing further required; nothing that I could accomplish could contribute any further benefit

v. 14 We have a PURIFIED CONSCIENCE — so that We Can Serve. We're released Into Life and Set Free from the GUILT of Our Past Sin

v. 22 Why Would God Ever FORGIVE YOU? — Because Christ Was Our SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE. God Forgives Our Debt because Christ PAYS IT IN FULL (DEATH!!)— God will not require 2 PAYMENTS (Ours Plus His)

Heb 10:11-14, 18

(3) FAITH EFFECTED BY THE WORK OF CHRIST IN SATISFYING GOD

Why Did Jesus Die?

WHY? Because of the Severe Demands of God's Righteousness & His Love!!

.... What Did I Need to be "SAVED FROM"?

Rom 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Rom 1:16-18 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." 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men

" Closely related to God's holiness is his wrath, which is in fact his holy reaction to evil. We certainly cannot dismiss it by saying that the God of wrath belongs to the Old Testament while the God of the New Testament is love. For God's love is clearly seen in the Old Testament, as is his wrath in the New." John Stott, "The Cross of Christ", p.

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Heb 10:26-31 it is STILL a Terrible Thing to Face God APART FROM CHRIST'S WORK!!!

How is it that we so Easily Dismiss This Great Obstacle? — while remaining IMPRESSED by the Devil, the World, and the Flesh?

.... Christ Work dealt with the Devil, the World, Sin, & our Flesh — but ***its GREATEST WORK was Assuaging the Judgement of God Against US!!!***

“ How, people ask, can we possibly believe that God needed some kind of “satisfaction” before he was prepared to forgive, and that Jesus Christ provided it by enduring as our “substitute” the punishment we sinners deserved? Are not such notions unworthy of the God of the biblical revelation, a hangover from primitive superstitions, indeed frankly immoral?” John Stott, “The Cross of Christ”, p. 112

— ***“But I’ve Always Believed in a “GOD WHO WAS GOOD”.***

Hab 1:13 “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.”

“ There is something in God’s essential moral being that is “provoked” by evil and “ignited” by it, proceeding to “burn” until the evil is “consumed”.” John Stott, “The Cross of Christ”, p. 126

Why The Priesthood Why this Sacrifice of the Innocent?

- Where Do We Get these Ideas? ... It was NOT the Devil that Appointed Priests and Demanded Sacrifices. It was NOT MAN that did these either.

[Bottom Line - God Prescribes the Priesthood and Establishes the Sacrificial System that Hebrews is Referring to... it is FROM God and it is FOR God. It is required by God.]

