

Hebrews: The Crossing Point is a six part Adult Bible Study suitable for Small Groups or Private Study; Especially helpful to new believers in understanding God's overall plan for redemption through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews: I call it the "BETTER BOOK" because Jesus is better than....



Ron Singleterry Hebrews: The Crossing Point-Part 5
Adult Bible Study
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Hebrews: The Crossing Point

-Part 5

Hebrews Chapters 11, 12, and 13

Faith Explained [Chapter 11: 1-3]

[Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."](#)

[Substance of things hoped for:](#) *What greater thing can you hope for than immortality? Explorers have risked all they own and their very lives in search for the fountain of life in order to extend their mortal lives. Receiving eternal life depends on faith: You can't lead anyone to Christ who demands proof. You have to "believe on" or "put your faith in" Jesus to be born again.*

[Evidence of things not seen:](#) *There are many things in the Bible that we have no evidence to "scientifically" conclude them to be true. We read articles or see TV specials on Noah's Ark being in a snow bank near the top of a mountain, but all of the technology cannot spot with satellites or help a team of specialists go up and determine if there is even a boat up there, much less date it to Noah's time. Believing the Bible requires faith.*

Trail Note:

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. [Everything comes from nothing; He created ALL]

Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 require faith. Everything in the universe that we can see was made from nothing!

Most scientists and many of my engineering colleagues say that this is "nonsense". However, they believe in a variety of **theories** that they call facts that require for them to have faith!!!

I have had a few co-workers tell me how simple-minded a person is to believe God created everything. A few have asked where God came from and say they do not believe in a pre-existent God. Then I ask where the gas came from that formed into swirls that formed into solid bodies or stars. **It takes more faith to believe in evolution that to believe Genesis 1:1!**

Hall of Fame: Examples of Faith [Chapter 11: 4-40]

Take time to read Hebrews 11: 4-40 in its entirety.

Reading God's listed examples can challenge you to be a true friend of God.

Just a few to highlight are:

Abel - Offered a sacrifice that was acceptable to God (Blood sacrifice)

Jacob - A conniver yet the father of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Moses - Willing to suffer for Christ rather than enjoy the sinful pleasures of Egypt

Joshua - Exercised enough faith to see the walls of Jericho fall down

Rahab - A harlot of Jericho aided the spies and found God's favor (she is in the lineage of Christ)

Samson - A womanizing conceited judge is on this list. Can you think of something that what God saw in him?

The prophets!!! - That's a bunch right there!

Did you notice how many great people in the Bible did not get mentioned? What can we learn from who is mentioned and what they are remembered for? Can we learn anything from the ones that are not mentioned?

Those Christians already in Heaven watch us [Chapter 12: 1-13]

Hebrews 12:1 "Compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses"

This phrase should encourage each of us as Christians because victorious saints in previous ages are rooting for us. These victors in Christ should encourage us to eliminate the things that **weigh us down** as well as compel us to **stay away from sinful things**.

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.

A Gift is not Usable until Accepted [Chapter 12: 14-17]

In verses 14-17, Esau is used to illustrate how some reject the gift given to them. Esau did not work for his birthright: It was given unto him by his order in birth.

However, he did not place any value on this great **gift** and traded it away for something of very low value. These verses are NOT about someone who has repented (seen the value of salvation and turned to Jesus) and then LOST their salvation.

This is about someone who never accepted the gift of salvation because **they did not see God's grace as something of far greater value than the carnal things around us in this world.**

Trail Note:

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Trail Note:

Jesus is interceding for those that have accepted His gift of salvation.

Rules vs. Grace [Chapter 12: 18-29]

In verses 18-29 a comparison is made. What a contrast! The *harshness* of the First Covenant that was made at **Mount Sinai** with all the fear and legality, compared to the New Covenant where we come to **Mount Sion or Zion** (*Calvary*) where we have joy and fellowship.

Trail Note:

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Reflection of Christ [Chapter 13]

We end this study with a summary that lovingly tells us to follow Jesus Christ, not only to the foot of the cross, but also in all of the ways that He taught.

We should express our love to one another as Jesus did toward us. This is a good way to close this “Better” book. What could be better than being a good reflection of Christ?

When we think of how God the Father and God the Son planned this from the beginning of creation (“*we were chosen in Him from the foundation of the world*”), it will impact what we value.