

Hebrews L26 – Lessons 19-25 Study Summary

Lesson 19 – Hebrews 11:1-16 Biblical Examples of Faith – Part 1

- Q1 – Faith is being assured and convinced that God controls the future. Placing our hope in God and His promises, we live with a settled conviction that impacts how we think and act now.
- Q3, 4 – To please God, we must accept that He exists, that He created our world, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. Everything seen and unseen exists by the power of God’s Word.
- Q5, 7 – Earth is not the Christian’s home; we live here as strangers and exiles awaiting our heavenly city. God is pleased to see faith in His children, and He is preparing a home for them (us).

Lesson 20 – Hebrews 11:17-31 Biblical Examples of Faith – Part 2

- Q1 – God tests believers’ faith. When we are proven steadfast, He is able to complete us and bring us to perfection. He will also give to us the Crown of Life. Genuine faith will result in praise and glory to God in the Day of Christ’s return (2nd Coming).
- Q2 – Abraham reasoned that even if sacrificed on the altar, God would not leave Isaac dead as the child of promise. He told his servants to wait for him and the boy to return.
- Q4-6 – Moses walked away from Egyptian royalty to identify with God’s people, the Hebrew slaves. He placed a higher value on God’s ways and plans than the wealth of Egypt.
- Q7 – Isaac, Jacob and Joseph all fully embraced God’s promise to Abraham to raise up a people and put them in a Promised Land. God is commonly referred to as the “God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Lesson 21 – Hebrews 11:32-12:2 Jesus Perfects our Faith

- Q1 – Human weaknesses serve a purpose in Christian believers. Knowing our own weaknesses helps keep us from becoming conceited. When we are humbled, God lifts us up at the proper time.
- Q2, 3 – God’s prophets did not have an easy life. Many were rejected because they preached God’s truthful message, which was unpopular. They were ostracized and persecuted, living more like homeless people than revered spokespersons. Christ warned that we can all expect similar opposition, but to take heart and live in peace because He has overcome the world.
- Q5 – We must be willing to set aside personal weights and hindrances (habits, attitudes) that negatively impact our faith-walk with the Lord. They may not be sinful, but they could steal our time and energy from Christian commitment and service. Likewise, there may be a sin (or two...) that always seems to be our particular problem, tripping us up again and again in life. We need to deal with it (them) and run our lives with endurance despite these and other hindrances.

Lesson 22 – Hebrews 12:3-17 Don’t Grow Weary from God’s Fathering

- Q2, 3 – Being a child of God means that in His love we will also be subject to His discipline. He wants to guide us in proper living. We are cautioned not to grow weary of God’s discipline in our lives. Discipline is intended to “correct” us, much like the scriptures do as described in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 --- teaching, reproving, correcting and training. Discipline can also be needed as punishment.
- Q5 – Emerging from God’s discipline and testing --- though painful and unpleasant --- believers develop the peaceful fruit of righteousness. We become stronger in faith and more obedient followers.
- Q7, 8, 9 – In life, we are to be at peace with other people. In faith, we are to become holy as God is holy, so that we may see him. In church life, we are to ensure everyone: 1) understands salvation; 2) avoids becoming bitter with others; and 3) no one becomes sexually immoral and unholy.
- Q11 – For disciplining our children, we would be wise to understand how God disciplines us as believers. God’s purpose in disciplining His children is to result in righteous lives and living, bringing us peace in the long run. His disciplinary actions are motivated by His love for us, to make us better people who willingly embrace His standards. In response, He seeks obedience from love --- not fear!

Lesson 23 – Hebrews 12:18-29

A Rock-solid Kingdom Awaits Us

- Q2 – The Israelites were practically paralyzed by fear the day God gave the 10 Commandments. There was thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, an earthquake, trumpets blasting and dark clouds. They saw Moses and God speaking in thunderous voices. At the end, they begged Moses to NEVER let them experience God in this way again. They pled with him to always be the go-between!
- Q5 – In the New Covenant (Testament) Jesus is identified as the one and only Mediator between God and man. No one gets to go to heaven unless they go by belief in Him. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life for all believers.
- Q6 – Despite the awe and fear experience of receiving the 10 Commandments, the Israelites later turn on both God and Moses. No matter how “real” our experience(s) may have been with God, no one is above turning away from their faith.
- Q9 – God will once more shake all creation --- so that only what is permanent remains. He is looking for an appropriate response today, for us to worship Him acceptably with reverence and awe. He may be our heavenly Father, but He’s also the majestic, all-powerful Creator of all things! In Him rests eternal life or death for everyone.

Lesson 24 – Hebrews 13:1-9

What Christian Living is Really Like!

- Q1 – The Church is a family; the saved are the children of God, and we are brothers and sisters to one another. The binding characteristic is ‘agape’ love, which cares for and responds to needs of others, both within the family (service) and outside church doors (ministry).
- Q2, 3 – For strangers we don’t know who are traveling, in prison, or being mistreated, Christians have a special calling to respond to the needs they observe. Hosting, visiting, advocating --- these are not duties to shirk or expect others to do for us....
- Q4 – Biblical teachings are that marriage between a man and a woman is to be esteemed (valued) and honored. City, state or federal law notwithstanding, marriage is sacred. Adultery and immoral sexual behaviors are not “acceptable” because they defile God’s purpose for marriage. We are to honor God with our bodies, as well as our spirits.
- Q5, 6 – We should not let the ‘love of money’ draw us away from dependent faith upon God. Instead, seek first the Kingdom of God and He will meet our needs. In our churches, we should esteem (recognize and value) godly and obedient leaders --- and imitate them!

Lesson 25 – Hebrews 13:10-25

Sacrifices Pleasing to God

- Q2 – Christians are here asked to make three sacrifices: 1) We are to acknowledge and praise God “continually” (sacrifice of praise); 2) to do good to others (be a do-gooder!); and 3) to share what we have with those in need. This pleases God!
- Some people want to keep their faith in God “private.” Psalms passages indicate that ‘sacrifices of praise’ are actually expressions of gratitude. In Mt 10:32-33, Jesus says we must acknowledge Him publicly. If we refrain, He will not acknowledge us in heaven.
- Q3, 4 – Our leaders are 1) charged to keep watch over the souls of their church congregates, and 2) they will be accountable to (judged by) God for how well or poorly they did this essential service. James clarifies that leaders, particularly teachers, are held to a “stricter” judgment by God. Church members are to obey and submit to our godly church leaders.
- Q5 – Jesus describes His role as the true Shepherd as primarily one of sacrifice on behalf of His sheep. His purpose was never to “take” but to “give.” Ezekiel shares a warning that God knows when lazy and preying under-shepherds are in control of His sheep, reducing believers to commodities and getting personally enriched off them. In 34:10, God states He will oppose these shepherds, stop them in their abuses, and require accountability (judgment) for the sheep they were responsible for.