

The Next Seven

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Great Chapters of the New Testament

1 The Faith Hall of Fame

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-40

2 Jesus Prophecies Future Events and Promises His Visible Return

Reading: Matthew 24:1-51

3 Important Truths for Christian Living

*Reading: Philippians 4:1-23; Key Verses: 6-7; 8; **13**; 19*

4 Conversion of a Run Away Slave

Reading: Philemon 1:1-25

5 Demonstrate Genuine Faith by Your Works

Reading: James 2:1-26; Cf. Ephesians 2:10

6 Knowledge of Scripture Produces Inner Assurance the Believer Has Eternal Life

Reading: 1 John 5:1-21; Key Verses: 11-13

7 The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Reading: Revelation 19:1-21

General Knowledge of Bible Books, Chapters, Verses

Lesson 10

Overview

As we continue this review our focus remains on the New Testament. Let's touch upon several additional chapters and verses all Christians should learn well culminating with Revelation chapter nineteen.

One of the most important verses in the Bible is found in Hebrews 11:6. In this verse we learn it is impossible to please God without faith. In its most basic application this means it is impossible to please God apart from acting upon the knowledge of God as our Creator.

Furthermore genuine faith acts in obedience to the Word of God as one is confronted with the call to repentance (that is, the individual comes to acknowledge accountability and embraces God's invitation to find mercy and grace; such faith believes he rewards those who diligently seek him).

Again Hebrews 11:6 states, ". . . *for he that comes to God must believe that he is.*" Such faith should be the normal reaction of all men toward their Creator. Remember this: *all men have an initial knowledge of God written in their conscience and confirmed by the creation* (Romans 1:18-21; 28).

Thus, we must "believe that he is." In fact no one has an excuse for turning away from the basic witness of God that exists in the heart and which is confirmed by the additional witness of the creation.

From this basic starting point men must proceed to "diligently seek him." Since all men in their natural state do not first seek him we must conclude that the Lord expects men to respond in faith as he moves in time to lead us to repentance. As the Spirit of God strives with us (perhaps for only a short window of time) his

expectation is a response of personal faith on our part. The repentant believe that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him!

In our daily reading this week several other key passages are listed. Matthew 24 is the great chapter in which Jesus lays out various details associated with his ultimate return in great power and glory. Philippians 4 follows and you should note several important truths in this chapter that guide believers in their walk with Christ. This chapter gives us the oft quoted and very much needed promise, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.*"

Philemon is a short book with only one chapter but it sets forth a basis for the ultimate elimination of slavery in a society governed by Christians. How? It does so as believing masters are compelled to love fellow believers and treat them as brothers in Christ!

Of course, the Roman Empire was not governed by a manifest application of the Judeo-Christian ethic. However, wherever Christian influence flourishes the Spirit of Christ will break down and undo social bondage resulting in a new social order respecting the right for all men to enjoy personal liberty

Next, we come to the second chapter of the book of James. In this chapter the Holy Spirit compels us to discern between mere profession of faith and *genuine* faith. Professed faith in Christ that is not accompanied by works that demonstrate the reality of that faith is simply "dead."

There are two important realities connected to this teaching.

First, a true believer will demonstrate the possession of a real faith when faced with a *test* of that faith. Abraham obeyed God when called upon to offer Isaac. His faith proved genuine. In that sense he was justified by works—his works confirmed his faith and actually flowed out of his genuine faith.

Likewise, Rahab faced a crisis and instead of perishing with the rest of Jericho she demonstrated a changed heart and genuine faith by aligning herself with the Israeli spies. In different ways that may be unique to each believer genuine faith will be demonstrated by various works that bear testimony to a changed heart.

Secondly, remember a true believer is “*created in Christ Jesus unto good works*” (Eph. 2:10). The new birth is the work of the Spirit of God in the heart and always results in the impartation of a new nature not present in the heart of those unregenerate and lost.

How could anyone be “born again” and have no “works” that manifest as a result? The question answers itself. It is NOT possible. Such faith is indeed dead!

James in no way contradicts the great New Testament doctrine of justification by faith apart from the works of the law. In fact, the works James is talking about has nothing to do with the law.

Abraham lived hundreds of years before the Law of Moses and Rahab was justified before she knew anything about the Law of Moses. In both of those illustrations the works referred to should not be confused with the works of the law. Rather, the works described demonstrated obedience from a heart possessed of genuine faith in the living God.

The two remaining chapters listed in our daily reading bring to our attention the issue of assurance of salvation and the revelation of Jesus Christ as he returns to rule and reign upon the earth.

Chapter five of 1 John contains the clearest statement in the entire Bible concerning the assurance of salvation. Can a believer *know* he is saved? Can we know at the moment of death we are going to heaven? Can we live moment by moment with this kind of victory in our heart?

The answer is a resounding yes! In fact 1 John 5:13 teaches that an inner assurance comes from the written Word of God. As we come to a mature faith that embraces the truth of Scripture it produces this assurance. The written word is given that we might know (come to recognize) a believer possesses eternal life. The possession of eternal life leaves no doubt about where one is going at the moment of death. Praise the Lord!

Of course, there is an event that could occur before physical death. That event is the return of Christ. Are you ready should he come today? If the Lord Jesus comes today do you know you have eternal life? In other words, do you know he would take you with him?

The return of Christ for his bride, the church, will set in motion a series of events that leads to the climatic appearance of Christ with his church as he returns in great power and glory to the earth. John the Revelator, in the Spirit on the Lord's day, was granted a prophetic glimpse of our Lord's second coming in Revelation chapter nineteen. What a day that will be!

Certainly Revelation 19 is one of the great chapters in the New Testament. Do you believe what this chapter teaches?

All true Christians believe that Jesus Christ is coming again. I trust his coming is your blessed hope as it is for all who love and serve him. Indeed, we join John in his prayer, "*even so, come, Lord Jesus.*"

Key Passage this Week

- *Hebrews 11:1-40*

Key Verse

- *Hebrews 11:6*

Digging Deeper

For those students who desire to explore some of the content of this section of review a bit further here are a few links to interesting articles available online:

Doesn't the Bible Support Slavery?

<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-questions/doesnt-the-bible-support-slavery/>

The Rider on the White Horse and the Armies with Him

<https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/1445-the-rider-on-the-white-horse-and-the-armies-with-him/>

Matthew Henry's Commentary on James Chapter Two

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Jam/Jam_002.cfm

Family Discussion/Devotion

General Knowledge of Bible Books, Chapters, Verses

What chapter in the New Testament might be referred to as the “Faith Hall of Fame?”

- A. Revelation 2
- B. Hebrews 11
- C. Colossians 4
- D. Philemon

What is the theme of Matthew chapter 24?

- A. Love
- B. Faith
- C. Stewardship
- D. Prophecy

In which New Testament book does the following verse appear: *“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me?”*

- A. Philippians
- B. Colossians
- C. 1 Timothy
- D. Acts

What three books of the New Testament are considered the “Pastoral Epistles?”

- A. Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians
- B. 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon
- C. 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus
- D. Acts, Romans, and Galatians

Which New Testament book deals with a runaway slave?

- A. Titus
- B. Jude
- C. Philemon
- D. 1 Peter

Which New Testament book declares that “faith without works is dead being alone?”

- A. Galatians
- B. James
- C. 2 Peter
- D. Jude

Who said the following: “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God?*”

- A. Peter
- B. Paul
- C. Jesus
- D. Luke

When Jesus asked his disciples, “*Who do you say I am,*” which disciple responded with the famous confession: “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God?*”

- A. Andrew
- B. Peter
- C. John
- D. Judas

In which book did the apostle Paul say, “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*”

- A. 2 Corinthians
- B. Philippians
- C. Colossians
- D. Ephesians

In which of the following books do we find the following verse: “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

- A. Titus
- B. 1 Corinthians
- C. Ephesians
- D. Romans

What verse in the New Testament specifically states that a believer may *know* that he possesses eternal life?

- A. Revelation 3:20
- B. 1 John 5:13
- C. Romans 12:1
- D. Mark 11:24

What chapter in the New Testament describes in detail the visible return of Jesus Christ to the earth?

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3
- B. Matthew 27
- C. Colossians 1
- D. Revelation 19