

Heb. 6:9-20

I hope you were either with us last week, or will go back and listen to the message, because as you are aware, when the author wrote this (by inspiration of the Holy Spirit) there were no chapters and verses. And I'm quite sure when the letter was read to them initially, it was read all the way through without breaks. Now, just like for us, there were definitely revelations throughout that caused them to go back and study each of these parts and pieces (like Bereans). But the point is **we need to understand what happened prior, in order to understand the significance of what comes next**. Or in our case, what we will study today. So here's a quick overview.

- Back in **Ch. 5** we were introduced to this **king and priest Melchizedek** who existed before the Law and priesthood even existed. And it's through this priesthood of Melchizedek that Jesus became the forever High Priest, while also being King of Kings (we started to cover this in **Ch. 5** and will get into this much more next week. I know I keep saying that, but the in between is too good to rush 😊).
- The reason we need to know that for this weeks study is after the author lays that incredible truth out, **1)** he then told them he wanted to take them deeper, **2)** but could not because they failed to mature in their walk with God, **3)** being unskilled in the bible, **4)** and having not developed discernment of good and evil because they hadn't sufficiently exercised what God had given them (**5:11-14**).
- And this was followed by **a warning** for everyone who was considering walking away from faith in Jesus to return to the Law and the old (and now obsolete **[8:13]**) sacrificial system. And that warning was that if they took this step, they were revoking their salvation because there is only one sacrifice for sin (**10:11**), and it's the blood of Jesus (**7:27**).

We finished with this verse last time. So continuing with our review, let's look at what we lightly covered then. *⁹ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.*

The warning which came before this verse was sobering for them for sure, because in his giving of the warning **1)** he spoke of them in the **first person** (*you*), and **2)** of others who had almost certainly already gone back to the law, **revoking their previous faith in Jesus for a dead system**, in the **third person** (*those, they*). Meaning they would have known some who (if they did not return in faith in Jesus alone), would have been eternally lost.

- And I know every one of us here today know and love someone who has rejected Jesus (or think they have), without whom they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. And that's a painful possibility to carry in our hearts. **Making it likely for us to not only comprehend this truth, but to also feel the weight of it.**
- So as we closed last week, we saw a transition, which again is completely inspired by the Holy Spirit. And **that was from severe warning to encouragement**. They needed it and I know many of us need it also. **But what we didn't really cover in this verse last week was the *things that accompany salvation*.**
- Salvation itself is far more than any single person is worthy of. So when he speaks of things that come with our salvation, **it almost unimaginable that God would give us more than forgiveness of sin and eternal life in paradise with Him**. Let me give an example so when he now reveals things which are part of God's salvation "benefits package", it can stir the hope and curiosity of every believer. And create a desire to know how we can contribute to what God is doing and has done to bring others to this same incredible rescue plan of His.

If you were born as an American, I think you were born into the greatest country one could be privileged to live in (and for all who have become citizens, it's wonderful you are here to build and share in this great nation). But for you born here, that in itself is such a blessing **which as a baby you had no part in other than just receiving**.

- And if you were born in 2025-2028, if one who has gone before you (a parent, or family member) has made what is called by the treasury department an "election" for you, an account with a starting balance of \$1,000 (**530A account**) has been opened in your name. Which will be invested and then made available to you when you are 18. If nothing else is added, it is estimated to be worth \$5,800 - \$18,000. But others can contribute up to a max of \$5,000 a year, estimating then at 18 it would be worth between \$191,000-\$300,000. So for just being born in this place and in this time, **1)** not only are you a citizen of such a blessed nation, **2)** but there are so many things that **accompany** your citizenship. **Yet the things of this earth are not guaranteed or permanent** (somebody started thinking about hacking you already).
- But when you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you were born again and became a citizen of heaven. Again, like our earthly example, you did nothing to be born into the greatest (and eternal) kingdom. But

it also does not end there. 1) Gal. 4:7 tells us at that very moment you became a child of God, and an heir of God through Jesus. 2) And Eph. 1:11-14 tells us *in Him also we have obtained an inheritance*, and that having received the Holy Spirit, He *is the guarantee of our inheritance*... All of this has simply been added to your heavenly account because you put your faith in Jesus. 3) And 1 Pet. 1:3-4 goes on to tell us God the Father, *has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* There will be no hacking of this account 😊. Nothing is more secure than you in the arms of Jesus. And just like those born recently, **we must wait** until it's time to receive what God has set aside for us in heaven.

- But here is another big difference. In that 503A account (also called Trump accounts), **the child it's opened for cannot personally contribute to it.** Everything has to be done for them. **But in Gods economy, in addition to the inheritance which is guaranteed for each child of God, you have God given opportunities to make additional deposits on your own behalf.** That's where he goes now.

¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister (whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done for Him [Matt. 25:40]. And He will not forget). *¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,* *¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

If we believe **the promises** of God that have come through our **faith** in Jesus, he is now encouraging us to **1)** not only get or stay in the word of God, **2)** but also to get and or stay in the service of God.

- How many times have you observed **1)** someone who is a Christian who is invested in the word of God, but has little interest in serving God by loving the people of God? **2)** On the other hand, I'm betting you know those who love to serve the people of God but have not matured in the word of God. **Together these two are transformational to us!** So after calling them to not be slothful in the word of God, now he is strongly encouraging them to, instead of being slothful in service, **be equally diligent in works and labors of love done for the glory of God.** Which bring about that transformation and speaks to the fact we are living more for the promises of our coming lives in heaven than for the short time we have here on earth.
- And he provides a metric or example of what that kind of service of love should look like. And that is the kind of love that Jesus poured out while He was upon the earth. Paul tells believers to imitate him and goes on to say because he is imitating Jesus (1 Cor. 11:1). So, question, **if new believers were imitating your service of love to the saints, would that be a good or bad thing...?**
- And remember this has been placed on the backdrop of our eternal security and inheritance which come by simply receiving in faith what Jesus has done. That's not a labor for you to complete, but what He has already freely given to those who will place their faith in Him. **But you and I now have an opportunity to invest** in what God has already supplied, by serving others now with our remaining time on earth.

For some, because they want an earthly payout instead of an eternal promise, they lose their patient endurance, because their faith is misplaced. They think they should have it easy now and receive their reward now. But we need to show **diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end.** And that end is not now. And the end for us is really the beginning of the fullness of God's inheritance which He has promised to His children.

Folks, some have started so strong in their service to the people of God and then pulled back somewhere along the way (Gal. 6:9). If you stay in the faith, you will still make it into heaven, but it is not the will of God for you to be slothful in your labor of love to His people. He wants you to invest in them the way He has in you (Matt. 10:8). **And when you live that way, spending eternity with Him in heaven will consistently be your greatest desire.**

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He (God) could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, *¹⁴ saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."* *¹⁵ And so, after he (Abraham) had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*

When God makes a promise, He really shouldn't have to repeat it, **because He is the only one who keeps 100% of everything He says.** But He also knows and is merciful towards our frailty. And so as we study **Gen. Ch. 12-**

22 we find **1**) the initiation of Gods promise to Abram (12:1-3), **2**) then God telling Abram his descendants will be in number like the dust of the earth (13:16), **3**) when Abram lamented being childless, God called Him to go outside and look at the stars to remind him of how many descendants he will have, telling him this will come through his own offspring (15:2-5), **4**) then God changes Abrams name to Abraham (meaning father of many nations) (17:4-8), **5**) and goes on to promise him that although he is 100 and Sarah is 90, they are still going to have the child of God's promise (17:15-18), **6**) and then after Isaac is born and Abraham is willing to sacrifice him in obedience to God (22:1-19), **then we find this promise delivered for at least the sixth time** (Gen. 22:17).

- God only needed to say it once, but because we sometimes need to hear it more than that, especially when struggling with difficult situations, **He is so gracious to remind us again.** And He didn't stop there, for when we get to **Ch. 11** (the hall of faith), **in verses 17-18 he will bring up the account of this very thing to highlight Abraham's exercise of faith in God's promises** (even though He had to tell him 6 time 😊).
- But what you also can see is **Gods promise was not made and fulfilled on the same day.** It was decades later. Which in our human frailty seems like forever. But Abraham *patiently endured* and *he obtained the promise.*
- The point being that when God promises us **1)** an **eternity** with Him through faith in Jesus, **2)** and **inheritance** as part of the salvation package, **3)** and the ability for us to **invest** in our eternal future, because the promise is from God, no matter how long or difficult the wait might be, you can bank your current life and eternal future on it!

Folks, how are you doing with patient endurance to obtain the promise of God? And do you know what those promises are? Sure, there can be some He has specifically given to you. But there are **the capitol "P" promises** that outweigh everything else. Do you meditate on those, waiting for the day you will obtain them?

¹⁶ For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Now this might be where for some it looks like He is just talking to these Jewish Christian believers, being they are the **physical descendants** of Abraham and therefore the heirs of the promise. But this is where **Gal. 3:29** comes in, saying to us, **"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** For all who have put their faith in Jesus, you have been made a **spiritual heir** under the promise (this is how Abraham's descendants would be as the sands of the sea or the stars in the sky). Because we too came to a point in life where we knew we needed to run to Him *for refuge.*

- What did they and we feel the need to flee from? Well certainly **1)** it had to begin with our need to flee the bondage of our own sin. **2)** But includes all the hurt that is accumulated while living in this fallen world, **3)** the pain of regret and of an unclean conscience, **4)** the losses we have encountered and the ones to come, **5)** the sense of meaninglessness (or as Solomon says "*vanity*"), **6)** futility, **7)** insecurity, **8)** frailty... This life is such a blessing, but it is so ultimately empty, and finally defeating, **without the refuge and promises of God.**
- And in the midst of all these difficulties that do come (including the pressures to return to your old connections, or old way of life, in order to ease the conflicts with those of your past and current ungodly circles) **we should have the greatest of consultation of all people, because God** (who cannot lie [Titus 1:2, Num. 23:19]) **has** (just like in Abrahams case) **1) repeated the promise that He is with us now, 2) and has set before us the coming hope of our eternal future with Him, 3) which no one can take from us - ever!**
- **If this is not strong consultation for you, you simply failed to believe God.** Now, He will tell you again because He is gracious 😊. As a matter of fact, Abraham had six reminders, while **God has given us the entire bible filled with His promises.** And these two **1)** of His never leaving us **2)** and then coming to take us to be with Him forever, **are everywhere.** But I will tell you that He has repeated them not to try and talk Himself into being faithful, but to remind us that He is!

¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Those without Jesus have their souls anchored in their accomplishments, human relationships, their financial growth, some great achievement they've dedicated their life to pursue... Yet an honest review of how that's

been working out for people leads us to the same conclusion the richest man who ever lived came to. Solomon said “*I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind* (Ecc. 1:14).” He came to this conclusion because he had pursued these things apart from God after he started worshipping the idols of his many wives. And they were then meaningless, **because he let his soul get anchored down instead of up**. But you and I, if we have placed our faith in Jesus, are anchored up in heaven, which makes it possible to make meaningful the things we do for God while here below... **1)** Everything below is perishing. But nothing which is above will ever perish. **2)** Everything below corrodes or erodes overtime. **But for us who have anchored our lives in Jesus, the opposite occurs. Everything will ultimately become complete, imperishable, incorruptible.** And there is no risk of loosing what is anchored in Jesus. Nothing is moving Him from holding onto you and your future with Him!!!

- For every person who put their faith in God in the OT, only one could enter behind *the veil* of the Holy of Holies where God resided on the mercy seat of the Arch of the Covenant. And he could only do so once a year (9:6-10).
- Whereas **in Jesus**, the veil was torn so we could have direct access to God. And I want to give you a spoiler alert, because when we get to 10:19-20 it will clearly tell us that **the veil that was torn was Jesus’ flesh** (take that in for a second). **You and I were given direct access to God at great personal cost to Himself.** Would He really go through all of that to come short of bringing you all the way home. No way!
- And one other thing Jesus as our High Priest did that no other high priest could, was He was the *forerunner* for those who would place their faith in Him. Meaning since He was resurrected and ascended into heaven, **so shall we be**. We have the One who went before us that one day we could be where He is.

Folks, if everything we looked into today does not reinvigorate you, boost your hope, and increase your patience in enduring until the fulness of the promise comes, you simply have not put real faith in Jesus.

- On the other hand, if it has done all this and more, **then its time to more diligently love and serve the saints** (and the future saints). **Because while we are still here, we can still invest in what He is doing until the time comes to enter His literal, physical presence, and partake of our inheritance- which is in Him.**

So now, finally getting back to Melchizedek- we will actually do that next time- for real 😊!