

**Study Guide for sections of the  
commentary on *Hebrews*, by  
Richard D. Phillips**

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**Extra Reading for the course:  
"The Book of Hebrews"**

ACADEMIC  
PACKET

**RESOURCES FOR GROUPS  
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS**



**Read chapters 1, 2, 5, 11, 19, 22, 26, 27, 31, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 44, and 49 of the commentary on Hebrews by Richard D. Phillips**

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

### **Chapter 1, pp. 5-15, Hebrews 1:1-2**

1. According to the author, what is the main theme of the Book of Hebrews?
2. Why does the author believe that Paul did not write Hebrews?
3. What is the author's opinion about the author of Hebrews?
4. Who were the recipients of Hebrews, according to the author?
5. According to the author, where were the recipients of Hebrews probably living?
6. To be accepted by the early church as canonical, did a document have to be written directly by an apostle?
7. According to the author, why is it so important in our society today to know that "God spoke" (Hebrews 1:1)?
8. "Indeed, we might better speak of the Bible not as being inspired but as being \_\_\_\_\_."
9. What principle for interpreting Scripture does the author draw from its unity?
10. What was probably the author's purpose in explaining that God has spoken through Jesus in the last days?
11. According to the author, in what sense is each book of the Old Testament "fragmentary and incomplete"?
12. In what way did Pilate express a concept that is key to postmodern thought?

### **Chapter 2, pp. 16-25, Hebrews 1:2-4**

1. Explain how these verses point to the three offices of Christ. Mention the phrases that point to each office.

2. What historical religious situation made it important to show the recipients of the Book of Hebrews that Jesus was superior to the angels?

**Chapter 5, pp. 46-55, Hebrews 2:1**

1. What phrase is used in Hebrews 2:1 to warn the readers not to abandon their faith in Christ?
2. What does the author say about being passive or active in matters of salvation, in justification and in sanctification?
3. "The particular means of security and sanctification the writer of Hebrews wants us to concentrate on is \_\_\_\_\_."
4. According to the author, is the command to love more difficult than the outward demands of the Old Testament law?
5. According to the text, what "modern miracle" confirms the Word of God today?

**Chapter 11, pp. 104-114, Hebrews 3:12-19**

1. What example is used in Hebrews 3:12-19 to warn the readers that they need to persevere?
2. How does the author the warnings in Hebrews 3:12-19? Do they indicate that a Christian can lose his salvation?
3. What is at the root of all sin?
4. Is it true that God punishes sin, but not the sinner?
5. What does the author say about the Israelites who died in the desert because of their rebellion? Were they also condemned eternally?
6. What does the Greek word for "exhort" (*parakaleo*) mean literally? Define the two parts of the word.
7. "Sin advertises pleasure but delivers \_\_\_\_\_."

**Chapter 19, pp. 185-196, Hebrews 6:4-8**

1. According to the author, who are those described in Hebrews 6:4-6 who have been "enlightened," have "tasted the heavenly gift," have "shared in the Holy Spirit," have "tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come," then they have fallen away?
2. According to the author, what does it mean to "fall away," as mentioned in Hebrews 6:4-6?
3. According to the author, should we keep sharing the gospel with someone who has "fallen away"?

4. What example does the author give of someone who denied Christ and came back to faith?
5. Is understanding and intellectually affirming Christian teaching sufficient for salvation?
6. Is the fruit that we bear a test of whether our faith is sincere and whether we are truly converted?
7. Where should we look for assurance if we are not sure of our salvation?

**Chapter 22, pp. 221-230, Hebrews 7:1-10**

1. What occurred in the encounter of Abraham with Melchizedek?
2. From where was Melchizedek?
3. Does the author believe that Melchizedek was Jesus Himself, appearing before His incarnation?
4. Which two offices did Melchizedek hold?
5. What does Jonathan Edwards say about the bread and wine that Melchizedek offered Abraham? Does the author agree with him?
6. The name Melchizedek consists of the Hebrew word *melek*, which means \_\_\_\_\_, combined with *tsedeq*, which means \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Traditionally Salem has been identified with the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Salem comes from the Hebrew word *shalom*, which means \_\_\_\_\_.
9. According to the author, why is it significant the Melchizedek appears in Scripture with no reference to his father or mother?
10. In what ways is Melchizedek a type of Christ?

**Chapter 26, pp. 265-275, Hebrews 8:1-6**

1. What are the five features mentioned in the text that make Christ's high priestly ministry superior?

**Chapter 27, pp. 276-286, Hebrews 8:6-13**

1. Why was a new covenant needed?
2. What analogy does the author use to explain God's covenant with Israel?
3. In Jeremiah 31, at the time of the fall of Jerusalem, when the old covenant was finally shattered, did God promise to patch up and fix the covenant, or did He promise to make a new covenant?

4. The old covenant was an \_\_\_\_\_ administration of salvation, but the new covenant works \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is the first great promise of the new covenant?
6. What is the second great promise of the new covenant (which actually comes third in the passage, but logically comes next)?
7. What is the third promise of the new covenant?

**Chapter 31, pp. 321-331, Hebrews 9:23-28**

1. What is the important culminating event of saving the work of Christ?
2. "Jesus died on the cross to bear our sins, was raised from the dead by the Father in acceptance of that sacrifice, and finally ascended into heaven to reign forever as priest and king and to send \_\_\_\_\_ for the salvation of his people."
3. What does it mean that Christ has "purified the heavenly things themselves" with his better sacrifice? What is the author's view?
4. According to Hebrews 9:27, all people will die and face \_\_\_\_\_.
- 31.5. Is Christ's death repeated each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper?
6. "But the good news of the gospel is that you are not saved by \_\_\_\_\_, but by Christ."
7. What key event will be the culmination of human history?

**Chapter 34, pp. 357-367, Hebrews 10:19-25**

1. According to Hebrews 10:21-22, we have two things because of Christ. What are they?
2. According to the author, what is both our "highest privilege and our most central duty"?
3. What does the author say about the importance of doctrine?
4. What does the term "stir up" mean in Hebrews 10:24-25?

**Chapter 35, pp. 368-378, Hebrews 10:26-31**

1. What does the author say about eternal punishment in hell for unbelievers?
2. What does the author say about God's being opposed to God's love?

3. According to Phillips, to what kind of person does Hebrews 10:26-27 refer, when it says, "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."?

4. What kind of people are those mentioned in Hebrews 10:26-27 who "sin deliberately"?

### **Chapter 37, pp. 390-400, Hebrews 11:1-3**

1. What is the "key that turns the lock on the door to eternal life," the "channel by which we receive the benefits of Christ's saving work," the cup into which God pours his saving grace"?

2. Does faith focuses more on the past or on the future?

3. There are four possible meanings to the Greek word "hypostasis" as used in the first phrase of Hebrews 11:1. What are they?

4. What does Phillips say about the best way to translate "hypostasis" in the first phrase of Hebrews 11:1?

5. What is the key thing that faith does?

6. How does the author define what faith is?

7. J.C. Ryle said that a person's life will "always be proportioned to his \_\_\_\_\_."

### **Chapter 40, pp.424 -434, Hebrews 11:7**

1. What distinction does Noah share with Adam?

2. The great flood at the time of Noah was a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Noah's ark was a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The rainbow was a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Noah believed two key things that were unseen. What were they?

6. Is it true that Noah found favor with God and was saved from the flood because he was morally blameless?

7. What do we learn from Noah about the relationship between faith and works?

8. Calvin said, "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never \_\_\_\_\_."

9. According to Calvin, what is it that "flows from faith like water from a fountain"?

10. According to Peter Lewis, \_\_\_\_\_ is our "ark" now.

**Chapter 41, pp. 435-445, Hebrews 11:8-10**

1. What is the best explanation of why God chose Abraham?
2. When does the life of faith begin, according to the author?
3. "Abraham's example shows us what real \_\_\_\_\_ looks like, namely, that there is a definitive change of life."
4. Did Abraham have a clear idea of where he was going when God called him?
5. Describe Abraham's situation when he arrived in Canaan. Did he feel at home?
6. What lesson can we learn from Abraham about our true citizenship?
7. What kind of city was Abraham seeking?

**Chapter 44, pp. 469-480, Hebrews 11:17-19**

1. What was the greatest "unimaginable" test of Abraham's faith?
2. According to Hebrews 11:19, what helped Abraham have the faith to offer Isaac?
3. According to the author, what does Genesis 22:5 indicate about Abraham's faith? ("Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.")
4. Where did Abraham get the idea that if he killed his son God would raise him from the grave?
4. What question of Abraham represents the question of the whole Old Testament?
5. The story of Abraham offering Isaac is a picture of what New Testament event?
6. According to the author, what aspect of Jesus' sacrifice is parallel to the fact that Isaac carried wood for the offering on his back?

**Chapter 49, pp. 528-538, Hebrews 12:1-3**

1. Who are the "great cloud of witnesses" mentioned in Hebrews 12:1?
2. What is the metaphor for the Christian life used in Hebrews 12:1-3?
3. According to Hebrews 12:1-3, if something is not a sin, is it necessarily true that it does not need to be discarded in the life of a Christian?

4. What is the "secret" of the Christian life, according to Hebrews 12:1-3?

5. "We fix our eyes on Jesus because he is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith."