

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of February 7th, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

A Persevering Faith

"If you allow yourself to drift down the river of sin with no zealous pursuit of holiness and growth in grace, there will come a 'point of no return.'"

-John Piper

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. "

-Heb 12:1-2

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 2:1-4

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Hebrews 10:35-36

This Week: Hebrews 2:1

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Acts 2:22, 43, 5:32, 7:53, 27; Hebrews 7, 10, 12; Num 15:30, 31; Deut 4:3, 17:2-12, 27:26; Mark 8, 16:20; Luke 1:2; 1 Cor 12:4-11; 1 John 2; Jude 1:24

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The personal pronouns used in this passage
 - Verb tenses used in the first verse – what do they indicate?
 - The allusion used in verse 2
 - The apologetic provided in verses 3 and 4
 - The Biblical literacy of these Hebrew readers. How is that instructive?
 - The function of spiritual gifts, as identified in this passage
 - The main point of this passage

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the original readers, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- How are you living with the end in mind? What end are you endeavoring towards – commendation or condemnation?
- What’s the difference between manipulation and warning? What is a worshipful response to biblical warning?
- What are some signs that a true believer is beginning to drift and is in need of this warning? Are you able to identify those signs in yourself?
- What are the marks of someone who has only embraced faith casually? How does this warning exhort those people?
- The idea from the sermon was that only persevering faith saves, but that for those who truly have believed upon Christ, God will provide that perseverance. Yet God uses the means of warning to keep believers faithful. What does this create in you? Laziness, fervency, faith, confusion, confidence? How must you heed this warning this week?

“So the person who drifts along in sin and makes no business in life of holiness does not fall out of Christ. He was never in Christ.”

–John Piper

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

–2 Corinthians 12:9

IN THE MEDIA

<http://www.foxnews.com/sports/2010/02/03/brees-model-resilience-perseverance/>

<http://pastorron7.wordpress.com/2010/02/03/drew-brees-christian-faith/>

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/local/article/Perseverance-brings-her-angel-from-Haiti-to-339205.php>

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (February):

COMMUNITY – That we would experience authentic, life-changing relationships together, see greater expressions of love towards one another in them, and be sanctified by them.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for his persevering patience
- Confessing our doubt and disbelief
- Thanking God for providing the perseverance that he requires
- Asking for steadfastness, focus and faith that endures to the end

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *The Race Set Before Us: A Biblical Theology of Perseverance & Assurance* – Schreiner & Caneday
- *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment* – William Lane
- http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/TopicIndex/14_Perseverance_of_the_Saints/

NEXT WEEK’S TEXT

Hebrews 2:5-13