

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF JANUARY 24TH, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS
An Overview of Hebrews

"If I am not worth the wooing, I am surely not worth the winning."
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"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 10:32-39

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

The entire book of Hebrews; Phil 1:30; Matthew 5, 10, 25; 2 Tim 1; 1 Pet 1; Luke 18, 21; Romans 2, 12; 1 John 2; Is 26; Hag 2; Hab 2; Gal 3

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about (THE BOOK OF HEBREWS AS A WHOLE):**
 - The author
 - The intent of this letter/sermon
 - The recipients of this letter
 - The setting of this letter
 - The cultural context into which this letter is written
 - Reoccurring themes in this letter
 - The main point of this letter

- **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?
- When you read the five passages of warning (Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:1-4:13; 5:10-6:12; 10:10-39; 12:12-29) what do you come away with? What do these passages move you towards?
- Pastor JR said that if following Christ is merely pragmatic for you, you'll never be able to endure when it gets difficult. Do you find yourself following Jesus out of great love, or great responsibility? How does this affect the way you live, work, love and worship?
- Have you experienced any resistance or hostility in your life because you follow Jesus? If so, how do you respond? If not, why do you think that is?

"Mankind is notoriously too dense to read the signs that God sends from time to time. We require drums to be beaten into our ears, before we should wake from our trance and hear the warning and see that to lose oneself in all, is the only way to find oneself."

–Mahatma Gandhi

"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

–Jesus, Matthew 16:25

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Proverbs 30:8-9

This Week: Hebrews 10:35-36

PRAYER FOCUS

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

CHRIST – That Jesus would be treasured by more and more people in our city, that he would be greater in our own lives, and that as we learn to love and follow him in greater ways we would be continually shaped by his gospel.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for such a great salvation
- Confessing our waywardness and propensity to lose confidence
- Thanking Jesus for his imminent and glorious return
- Asking for strength, courage and perseverance as we live by faith

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

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 1