



Hebrews Lesson 18 Chapter 12

Suffering can motivate us to do drastic things. In the case of the Hebrews the author is addressing, their suffering has led them to move away from the truth of Christ and retreat back to the ways of the old covenant law. But, as the author has described, to go back is to deny the grace of God and put themselves under a system of legalistic requirements that has no power to save them. It was never meant to provide complete redemption; that is only found by faith in the perfect sacrifice of Christ. As was described in chapter 11, even the Old Testament patriarchs were looking forward by faith to see “the city which has foundations whose architect and builder is God.” There hope wasn’t invested in this temporary world, but they “desired a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” Their hope in the eternal, heavenly rule of God directed their lives, and they were treated cruelly for their faith. Faith and suffering go hand in hand because the world system rejects those who don’t conform to its rules and standards. That was the predicament these Hebrew believers found themselves in. They would

be rejected and treated cruelly if they didn’t conform to the Jewish culture of their day. They would pay a high price for standing on their Christianity, and they weren’t sure they were willing to pay that price. The author understands the dilemma, but his goal isn’t to try to convince them that suffering won’t happen. He knows it will. His goal is to remind them of the precious redemption in Christ they have been entrusted with and encourage them on to fight the good fight of their faith as their forefathers did. Now that they have been reminded of the superiority of Christ, and the cost in following Him, the author will go on to explain that sacrifice more specifically. Suffering is God’s training ground in righteousness. It is how He strengthens our faith and works out our sanctification. The last two chapters of this letter will explain some of what that process of sanctification requires. Hebrews 12:11... “All discipline (training) for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 11 Rahab and Prophets

“...However, _____ the _____ and her father’s _____ and all she had, _____; and she has _____ in the midst of _____ to this day, for she _____ the _____ whom Joshua sent to _____ out Jericho.” Joshua 6:25

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
