

A Reader's Guide to Discipleship©: Readings in the New Testament

2009

The sufficiency of the scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness
(II Tim 3:16)

Hebrews: Enjoying the privileges of the promises- a partnership with God in establishing His kingdom

I. Jesus as God's Son, is the central figure in God's work with all creation 1:1-4

- A. He is God's eternal representative
- B. He will inherit all He has made for His father
- C. He has dealt with the fall of creation

II. According to God's word, Jesus' right to receive His inheritance as God's only Son cannot be challenged 1:5-13

- A. The Father has declared Him to be the only Son 1:5
- B. He is God's only begotten Son 1:6-7
- C. He alone is worthy to be the righteous ruler of the inheritance 1:8-9
- D. He alone is able to be the eternal ruler of an eternal inheritance 1:10-12
- E. He alone is able to sit at the Father's right hand 1:14

III. By faith, it is our privilege and salvation to share in this inheritance with Christ 2:1-8:6

- A. Jesus has established our right to share in His inheritance 2:1-3:6
 - 1. Jesus announced it, His apostles testified of it, and His Father confirmed it 1:14- 2:4
 - 2. Jesus Himself has laid out the path for us to glory through suffering 2:5-10
 - 3. Jesus claims us as His brothers 2:11-13
 - 4. Jesus has released us from our bondage and serves as our mediator 2:14-18
 - 5. Jesus Himself makes us into His house 3:1-6
- C. We can only experience this privilege through faith 3:7-4:13
 - 1. Lack of faith results in disobedience and God's judgement (Ps 95) 3:7-19
 - 2. But faith brings us into the promised rest (enjoying the finished work of God just as God did when He rested) 4:1-10
- D. There is no excuse for not entering into the promises 4:11-6:12
 - 1. The Word of God is just the "weapon" we need to establish the kingdom in our hearts 4:11-13
 - 2. Faith opens the door to the sufficiency of Christ for our needs 4:14-5:10
 - 3. It is your own fault if you are unskilled in the use of the Word 5:11-6:12

(There are serious consequences for those who never move on from knowledge to practice 6:4-12)

IV. God accomplishes His purposes and meets our needs with His plan

- A. God is bringing His new plan into play but His purpose for us is unchanging 6:13-10:21 (same promise- new plan)
 - 1. Our confidence is that God's dealings with us are based in His promises 6:13-20

2. A new plan and a new mediator (priest) were needed because of the faults of the people. Jesus is the perfect mediator between God and man because he is not part of the problem 7:1-8:6
 3. God's new plan, promised long ago, delivers personal transformation rather than requiring conformity 8:7-13
- B. The terms and conditions of the new plan 8:7-9:15
1. First plan based on external ordinance which increased awareness of sin 9:1-10
 2. New plan prepares us to receive our inheritance by cleansing us from sin. No more guilt 9:11-15
- C. The death of Jesus makes this covenant effective
1. death is required to be free from sin 9:16-22
 2. but only 1 death is necessary if the right man dies 9:23-28
 3. Jesus death is the only one necessary to perfect us 10:1-9
 4. only His death is sufficient for the promises of the new covenant to be realized 10:11-18

V. We must live a life of faith 10:19-12:3

- A. Key faith principles 10:19-25
1. keep it personal 10:19-22
 2. keep it objective (based on what was true) 10:23
 3. live it out as a community 10:24-25
- B. Our choices must be based in our confidence in God 10:26-39
1. There is nowhere left to turn if we reject God's grace 10:26-31
 2. But promises are fulfilled when living by faith 10:32-39
- C. Faith requires that we take the long term view
1. faith has substance- not mysticism 11:1-3
 2. faith pleases God 11:4-6
 3. faith is not about the time frame of this world 11:7-40

VI. We must live with the reality of this world 12:1-13:17

- A. Jesus leads the way in the race of faith 12:1-3
- B. We must see all hardships as discipline from the Lord 12:4-11
- C. We must work together for each others' success 12:12-17
- D. We must live in light of the heavenly significance of this earthly race 12:18-29
- E. Basic morals for the race- brotherly love, purity of doctrine, and orderly lives 13:1-17 Note the context of the church scattered

VII. Concluding remarks 13:18-25