



Lesson 32

Theme: Diligence in Perseverance (All Christians Are Overcomers)

Scripture: Hebrews 6:9-12

BUT (Hebrews 6:9)

- It might be helpful if we were to take the last phrase of this verse, “though we speak in this manner”, and move it to the beginning of the verse.
- His manner of speaking was very serious and with the greatest warnings.
- **BUT** – the writer now shifts his attention to a different group of people – different from those he addressed in verses 4-6.
- He is saying, “I am not saying this about you but you need to know that there are those **among** you who do NEED to hear these warnings.” Remember Jesus’ parable of the “Wheat and Tares.” (Matthew 13:24-30)
- In the verses that follow the writer will give encourage true believers with the promises of God and exhortations to persevere.

BELOVED (Hebrews 6:9)

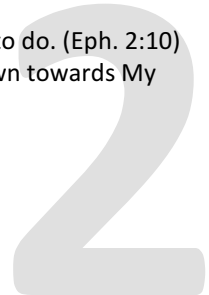
- “beloved” ἀγαπητός agapetos {ag-ap-ay-tos¹} is used 60 times in the New Testament.
- It is NEVER used for unbelievers.
- The first 9 times it is used by God the Father in speaking of Christ.
- Those who are “**in Christ**” are loved as God loves Christ. (John 17:23)
- The LOVE spoken here of is a love regulated by PRINCIPLE and not IMPULSE.
- This kind of LOVE seeks the HIGHEST GOOD for its objects.
- One who possesses such a love is willing to give ALL (including his own life) to the object of this love. (1 John 3:16)

Things That Accompany Salvation (Hebrews 6:9)

- The writer is confident or persuaded that those whom he now addresses are not like those whom he had been addressing in the previous verses.
- He has come to this conclusion because he has carefully observed these saints.
- He is confident of better things. The “better” means something superior to that which is “good.” The things listed in verses 4-5 are “good”, but the writer sees “better” things in those whom he is now writing.
- Things that accompany salvation . . . here are some things:
 - Because one has a NEW heart he loves God. Love is demonstrated by obedience. (1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 6)
 - Because God has put His Spirit within him, he now desires to and walks in the ways of God. (1 John 3:24; Ezekiel 36:27)
 - Because he has a NEW HEART that loves God, he loves the children of God. (1 John 5:1; John 13:34-35)
 - This love is NOT in word or talk, but in DEED and TRUTH. (1 John 3:18)
 - Because he has God’s Law written on his NEW heart, he loves God’s Law and God’s commandments are not a burden to him. 1 John 5:3
 - Because he has a NEW heart and a NEW Spirit, he hates what God hates.
 - Because Christ is his LORD, it is a delight to serve his Lord.

SAVING Faith WORKS (Hebrews 6:10)

- God REMEMBERS and REWARDS. (Malachi 3:16-17; 4:2)
- CAUTION: We are NOT saved because of our WORKS. We are not consumed because of the mercies of God. Lamentations 3:22.
 - WORKS are the EVIDENCE of God’s WORK in us. (James 2:14-26)
 - Christ gave Himself so that we would be ZEALOUS for good works. (Titus 2:14)
 - God saved us for works He foreordained for us to do. (Eph. 2:10)
- NOTICE the qualifier of the work performed – “shown towards My Name.”
 - We LOVE each other because we love HIM!



- We CANNOT LOVE others if we do not love HIM! We cannot obey the SECOND greatest commandment if we are not obeying the FIRST greatest commandment. (Matthew 22:36-40)
- Our love for the LORD is the motivation for our service. (See John 21:15-17)
- **LESSON:** Our major concern should be our love for God. The more we love God the more we desire to do His will. "When our love for God is RIGHT, our love for others will be RIGHT." (MacArthur)
- The Hebrew saints WORKED and KEPT on WORKING!
- The OBJECT of their love was "the saints" – the Body of Christ. See Matthew 25:45.

A Call to Diligence (Hebrews 6:11)

- The writer turns his attention back to the unbelievers.
- The writer's desire (passion) was that ALL of them would be DILIGENT in order to REALIZE the FULL ASSURANCE of HOPE until the END.
 - The writer is calling these people to DILIGENCE. The Christian faith is NOT for the LAZY or the SLOTHFUL (v. 12).
 - "diligence" has the idea of eagerness and haste, giving all your effort.
 - The Christian faith is likened to "a race" (Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27), a fight (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7)
- The "means" of achieving FULL ASSURANCE is to be DILIGENTLY BUSY with the WORK of the LORD. (See 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- The writer is calling for ENDURANCE "until the end!" (See Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Hebrews 3:14; Revelation 2:26 – this true believes will DO because it is Christ who sustains them – 1 Corinthians 1:7-8)

Faith and Patience (Hebrews 6:12)

- "sluggish" or "lazy" is the OPPOSITE of "diligent" in verse 11.
- This SLOTHFULNESS is in ALL of us!! It is the nature of the "OLD SELF."
 - However, WE are the ones that must be DILIGENT to OVERCOME! (See Romans 13:14)
- The writer is calling his readers to be IMITATORS of those who have inherited the PROMISES of God *through faith and patience*.
- "faith": See examples in Hebrews 11. This is NO general faith in God – demons have this! This is a FAITH that WORKS and PERSEVERES!
- "patience" μακροθυμία makrothumia {mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah}: patience; endurance; constancy; steadfastness; perseverance.

- Through this FAITH and PATIENCE we become OVERCOMERS and INHERIT the promises. For example:
 - Revelation 2:7 Eat from the Tree of Life
 - Revelation 2:11 Not hurt from the second death
 - Revelation 2:7 Eat of hidden manna and receive a white stone with a new name on it.
 - Revelation 2:26 Power (authority) over nations.**
 - Revelation 3:5 Clothed in white raiment; name written in the Book of Life; Christ will confess us before God.
 - Revelation 3:12 Pillar in the Temple of God; citizenship in Heaven.
 - Revelation 3:21 Sit with Christ on His Throne

True Born-Again Believers ARE Overcomers

- We are more than conquerors. Romans 8:37
- **ALL** who are born of God overcome the world. 1 John 5:4-5
- We overcome because greater is He who is in us than who is in the world. 1 John 4:4
- We overcome by the Word and our testimony. Revelation 12:11
- Christ overcame the world – we are in Christ. John 16:33; Galatians 1:4
- Also see Galatians 6:14; Revelation 6:14; 1 John 2:13
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