

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

Wednesday Nights Bible Studies

Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church of Colleyville

Definition of Faith (Heb. 11: 1-3)

- ❖ Faith is the _____ of the promises that we are hoping for.
- ❖ It is a life that does not wait for human evidence or proof, but accepts the word of God as totally _____.
- ❖ For the world, _____, but for us, _____ even when we cannot see because the one who promised is reliable (Heb. 10: 23).

Faith Before the Flood (Heb. 11:4-7)

- ❖ When we trust the Lord, the _____ will not stop us from _____.
- ❖ Noah's obedience was the _____ and made him _____.

The Faith of the Patriarchs (Heb. 11:8-22)

- ❖ Faith is _____ enough to obey Him. Because of this trust, Abraham based his choices on the _____ rather than on the _____ (V. 9).
- ❖ Trusting God does not require Him to fulfill His promises _____.
- ❖ The sacrifice of Isaac was a big test of faith because Abraham was asked to offer the only _____ "here and now".

The Faith of Moses (Heb. 11:23-29)

- ❖ Faith casts _____ away from the heart.
- ❖ Faith _____ the person from fear.

Study Questions for Reflection and Discussion

These readings and study questions are in preparation for next week's lesson.

As you begin each day pray that the Lord would speak to you through his Holy Spirit as you open yourself to his word.

First Day: Read Hebrews 12:1-24. *Focus your attention on verses 1-2.*

1. Who do you suppose St. Paul had in mind when he wrote of a "great cloud of witnesses?" Who are the great witnesses to faith in your life? What contribution have they made to your spiritual life?
2. What do think are the "weights" and "sin" that concerns St. Paul in verse 1? What things hinder you from running the Christian race?
3. What aspects of Jesus does the author highlight to his readers? Why? What aspects of Jesus most appeal to you? Why?

Second Day: Read Hebrews 12:1-24. *Now turn your focus to Hebrews 12:3-8.*

1. What response does St. Paul want from his readers as they think about Christ?
2. What comparisons does St. Paul draw between parental discipline of children and the trials of life?
3. Verses 5 and 6 quote Proverbs 3:11-12. Read Proverbs 3:1-12 and note other verses that contain an important message for the readers of Hebrews.

Third Day: Read Hebrews 12:1-24. *Now focus on Hebrews 12:9-11.*

1. What purpose does the discipline from God have? How does such discipline work to accomplish its purpose?
2. How important is timing in the disciplining work of God? Can you illustrate that importance from something God has done in your own life?
3. What have you experienced in the recent past that you think was the discipline of God? What lessons did you learn from that experience? Where experiences that you wonder whether or not it was God disciplining you or just hard times?

Fourth Day: Read Hebrews 12:1-24. *Now turn your focus on Hebrews 12:12-17.*

1. Hebrews 12:12 echoes the language of Isaiah 35:3. Read Isaiah 35. What other parts of the chapter would speak a word of encouragement to the readers of Hebrews. What parts speak encouragement to you?
2. What do you think could cause a person to fail to obtain the grace of God as verse 15 warns? How can you avoid such a failure in your own spiritual life?
3. Meditate on verse 14 for a moment. What do you believe God would have you do to more fully obey verse 14?

Fifth Day: Read Hebrews 12:1-29. *Focus now on verses 18-24.*

1. To what was St. Paul referring in verses 18-21? What kind of feeling do you get as you read and think about those verses?

2. How do verses 22-24 contrast with verses 18-21? What is the most important contrast to you? Why?

3. Have you come to Jesus and to all the blessing mentioned in verses 22-24. If not, you can. Write a brief prayer accepting the Lord's invitation to come to Christ and the blessings listed here.

Sixth Day: Read Hebrews 12:25-13:16. *Focus your attention on Hebrews 12:25-29.*

1. Who do you believe St. Paul is talking about when he writes of the "one who speaks" in verse 25? Why do answer the way you do?
2. Verse 28 commands us to give thanks because we are receiving a kingdom that can not be shaken. List some things for which you are thankful because of the unshakable kingdom.
3. Verse 29 describes God as a consuming fire. How does that description make your feel? What does St. Paul mean when he calls God a consuming fire?

FOCUS VERSE

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

Hebrews 12: 3-4

Wednesday Nights Bible Study
At St. Mary Coptic Orthodox church
From 7-830pm

Live at www.suscopts.org

Uploaded to www.suscopts.org/stmarydallas

Questions, suggestions to stmarydallas@yahoo.com