

A Better Covenant

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Read – *Hebrews 11:1-31*

Write your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

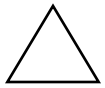
Complete the exercises.

1. What happened to Enoch instead of dying?

2. What did Moses choose rather than the pleasures of sin?

3. Men and women of faith confessed that they were _____ and pilgrims on the earth; they desired a better _____.
4. What did the Israelites have that caused the walls of Jericho to fall down? _____

Vocabulary Word



vindicated (vin' də kā təd): proven to be right

ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

God, our Creator and Lord, is the One who controls everything and keeps everything in its place. He is all-powerful and all-wise, eternal and self-sufficient. He alone is God and there is no other. We have been made by Him, we are kept by Him, and everything we have has been given by Him.

The first step in having a right relationship with God is to believe that He is who He has revealed Himself to be, even though we do not fully understand Him. Second, we need to believe that God will receive us and reward us if we seek Him with all our heart. This belief in God is faith.

Faith is the conviction of the heart that what

God has said is true. It takes God at His Word and acts confidently on what God has said. Faith believes God concerning the most basic truths; for example, He created everything and provided His Son to be our Saviour. Faith also trusts God for all of life's needs.

Hebrews 11 gives us a list of men and women of faith. These heroes were normal people like you; they had fears and doubts and sometimes made wrong decisions. Still, they believed in God and were moved by faith to obey Him. As a result, God's favor was upon them and they were counted as righteous.

Faith believes God for things that are not seen. Noah believed God and built a big ship on dry ground though he had never seen rain. Abraham left his homeland to go to a place he had never visited. Sarah trusted God would give her a son even though she was too old to have a child. Moses gave up a high position in the Egyptian government to follow God, not knowing what it would mean for him. Rahab believed that God would give victory to the Israelites and would help them to conquer Jericho even though Jericho was protected by high walls.

These men and women of faith seem also to have trusted God for their salvation, which was still in the future. These Old Testament saints never saw Jesus nor read about Him. Yet they looked forward to God's salvation and trusted God to prepare a heavenly city for them. They believed that giving up pleasures on this earth and even suffering for God was worth it because they wanted God to find them faithful. Today they are blessed; their faith has been vindicated.



UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

Answer the question.

5. What are two things we must believe about God before we can have a right relationship with Him?

A. _____

B. _____

Circle the letter of the answer.

6. Why were the people named in Hebrews 11 included in the list of heroes?

- A. They were unusually talented and brave.
- B. They knew about Jesus.
- C. They believed God and were moved by their faith to obey Him.
- D. They had Holy Spirit power to be righteous.

Lesson 6

7. If someone has faith in God, ____ .
- A. there is nothing else for him to do
 - B. he must work hard to prove it
 - C. God shows him exactly what will happen in the future
 - D. it leads him to obey God

Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false.

8. **T F** People of true faith will not make mistakes.
9. **T F** People who believe God will be spared from suffering.
10. **T F** Faith is sure that what God has said is true.

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

△ 11. What are two things Christians trust God for that they cannot see with their eyes?

- A. _____
- B. _____

FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING

 12. Read Romans 10:9. Faith in Jesus is necessary for salvation. If we believe, faith will lead us to _____ the Lord Jesus.

BIBLE MEMORY

Write the memory verse, including the reference.

13. _____
- _____
- _____

REVIEW

Complete the sentences and answer the questions.

14. Jesus _____ the Ephesian church because they had left their first _____ ; He commanded them to _____ .
15. Maintaining our faith in Jesus requires _____ .
16. What phrase is used to express the idea of coming confidently to God knowing that we are accepted in Jesus? _____

17. What do Jesus' perfect sacrifice and intercession do for us?

18. Who is in danger of receiving God's judgment?

Complete the exercise.

19. Complete the missing parts of the lists comparing the Old and New Covenants.

Old Covenant	New Covenant
A. Rituals were continually repeated.	
B.	Believers can confidently enter God's presence.
C. Animal sacrifices could not take away sins.	

Read – Hebrews 12

Write your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Bible Vocabulary

chastisement (chas' tīz' mēnt): correction; discipline

profane (prō fān'): ungodly; that which despises sacred things

Answer the questions.

1. According to verse 14, what are two things we must do to see the Lord?

A. _____

B. _____

2. Why is bitterness such a dangerous heart condition? _____

3. What phrase describes how sure the kingdom of God is?

- ① Verse 12 pictures a person who is bowed with exhaustion. His hands hang down in discouragement, and his knees tremble with weariness. Sometimes chastisement can make us discouraged and weary in our Christian life, but this verse tells us to renew our courage. The word *wherefore* connects verse 12 to verse 11, which tells us why we can take courage in difficult times.

4. What will chastening eventually bring to those who choose to learn from it?

Vocabulary Word

chasten (chā' sən): to correct, discipline

ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

Living a life of spiritual victory requires effort. It is easy to get tired of resisting temptation and then yield to sin. Hebrews 12 encourages us to

look at Jesus and take courage from His example. It was not easy for Jesus to obey His Father and die on the cross. The shame and agony were very

real to Him. The Giver of life needed to die and give His life as a sacrifice for sin, though He had never sinned. Jesus faced an awful choice. He did the right thing—He cried out to God in prayer. It was not just a quick prayer, but a persistent, earnest prayer until God gave Him strength enough to endure the test.

We need to seek God in a similar way. Bad habits and habitual sins drag us down. Quite easily we allow our love for God to cool and become lukewarm, and our obedience wavers. Sometimes we become too involved in good pursuits or interesting activities that distract us as we follow Jesus. We need to cry out to God to give us the strength we need to put His will first.

God understands our frail nature and how easy it is for us to stray. He loves us, has patience with us, and forgives us. Sometimes His love leads Him to discipline us. God corrects us like a loving earthly father **chastens** a disobedient child. Although He does not enjoy causing us pain or grief, God knows that sometimes correction is the only thing that will get our attention and help us do the right thing.

What does the Bible mean when it talks about God chastising us? God chastens us by smiting our hearts with conviction. Often, God will allow us to experience trials—perhaps a problem with money, health, or other people. This brings us pain and gets our attention. He does this not only when we have sinned but also to deepen our rela-

tionship with Him when we have settled for a lukewarm way of Christian living. He simply does not grant a deep, settled peace to rule our hearts until we agree with Him to change.

Trials bring us stress. God wants Christians to support one another, helping each other through trials and leading each other down straight paths to spiritual victory. Pursuing peace and forgiving each other is important. Some of the greatest tragedies in human relationships are caused by people holding grudges toward others. God wants difficult experiences to turn our hearts toward Him and make us yielding and meek. Unfortunately, people sometimes blame their trials on others and become bitter. This puts walls between the bitter person and God, bringing tremendous hurt and loss into that person's life.

We can easily allow trials to turn us away from God if we are not careful to maintain our relationship with Him. This is dangerous. God uses the writer of Hebrews to sternly warn us against turning away from the voice of God. If we have experienced God's love but then reject Him, there is no escaping His judgment upon us unless we repent.

We have the wonderful opportunity to be part of a kingdom that will never end or be conquered by others. His kingdom is forever sure, and we will have a place in that kingdom if we continue to follow Him.

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

Complete the exercise.

5. Describe the prayer by which Jesus gained strength to endure.
-

Circle the letter of the best answer.

6. Which of the following can cause us to lose love for God and become lukewarm?
 - A. bad habits
 - B. distraction by good activities
 - C. repeated sins
 - D. all of the above
7. God disciplines His children because ____ .
 - A. He wants them to experience difficulties and stress
 - B. He is not patient with their human nature
 - C. He loves them and knows correction is needed to help them do right
 - D. they are continually sinning
8. When we see fellow Christians going through difficult times we should ____ .
 - A. give them our love and support to help them through their trials
 - B. learn from them not to make the same mistakes
 - C. leave them alone to work out their problems
 - D. avoid talking to anyone else about the struggles we see
9. Why do some people struggle with bitter feelings?
 - A. They do not enjoy relating to other people.
 - B. They think that forgiving others will let them get away with evil.
 - C. They are so hurt, it is impossible to feel love again.
 - D. They are blaming others for the difficulties they are facing.
10. If we neglect our relationship with God, trials will easily ____ .
 - A. make us better people
 - B. prove that we have never been Christians
 - C. turn us away from God
 - D. strengthen our relationships with others

- ① In verses 18-21 the writer describes Israel's fearful experience when God gave the Law at Mount Sinai. In the Old Testament era God impressed His people with signs they could feel, hear, and see. This inspired a fear of Him that caused a physical reaction—trembling.

Verses 22-24 describe the New Testament era. Instead of impressing His people with physical evidence, God now shows them grander spiritual realities. We now live according to a higher spiritual standard. We may not tremble in fear of God, but we should experience a greater awe of Him. If the Israelites feared at Mount Sinai, we should be much more reverent before Mount Zion.



11. Read verse 25.

- A. Christ is speaking to us now from _____ .
- B. What warning is given to those who refuse to hear? _____

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

12. *Think!* Why is it important to ask God each day for strength to do right?

FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING

-  13. Hebrews 12 indicates that we are more responsible before God than those in Moses' time. Read Hebrews 10:28 and 29. Those who reject God today not only reject His law but also reject

BIBLE MEMORY

Complete the verse.

14. "But _____ faith it is _____ to please _____ : for he that _____ to God _____ believe that _____ is, and that _____ is a rewarder of _____ that diligently _____ him."
Hebrews _____ : 6

REVIEW

Complete the exercises.

15. Complete the sentences telling what we must believe about God before we can have a right relationship with Him.
- A. God is who He has _____ Himself to be.
- B. God will _____ us and reward us if we diligently _____ Him.
16. What qualified people to be included in the list of heroes in Hebrews 11?
-
17. _____ in God will lead a person to obey God.
18. Circle the letter of the statement that is true of people who have faith in God.
- A. They will not make mistakes.
- B. They are sure that what God has said is true.
- C. They will be spared from suffering.
- D. They are extraordinarily brave.