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This outline was adapted from The Companion Bible and Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts.

"I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM..."



Understanding the Book of Hebrews

BY REV. TIM SULLIVAN
Founder, WTWH

The book of Hebrews is a fascinating document of eternal truth and an invaluable aid to understanding the Old Testament. Selections from this epistle are sure to be found in any good dissertation on the Christian faith. However there are verses in Hebrews that are completely incompatible with the precepts of Christianity as set forth in the Pauline epistles. Unless a Christian knows to read these verses in their context, he is likely to interpret them as a challenge to his own salvation.

Some Necessary Background

The correct reading of Hebrews starts with identifying its primary audience. Although Christians can learn a tremendous amount from this book, it is *not* addressed to them. As the title clearly states, this epistle is addressed to the Hebrews: the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who belong to God by way of his covenants with Israel. This epistle does not argue that a Jew should forsake Judaism for Christianity; instead, it demonstrates that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Judaic faith.

To understand this epistle we must put to rest some misconceptions about the Old Testament. Some Christians think of the Old Testament (and particularly the law of Moses) as a guide to salvation by works. They think that in order to get and remain saved, a Jew had to walk perfectly in its steps. But such an arrangement would guarantee the damnation of all who lived under it. No mortal person has ever come close to keeping all the Law. James 2:10 says, "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Neverthe-

less, keeping the law of Moses was never a way to salvation.

When God Almighty introduced himself to Moses as "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exo. 3:6), he was calling to mind his everlasting covenants with Abraham and his seed. The surety of these covenants was the promise made by God himself. The Lord said to Isaac, "I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father" (Gen. 26:3). All in all, God made *four* unconditional covenants with Israel promising an eternal seed, land, dynasty, and the full restoration of the houses of Judah and Israel.

In Mt. Sinai, God made a *conditional* covenant with Israel, the law of Moses. The Law did not show Israel how to *become* the people of God – they already *were* his people, his *chosen* people. The Law revealed God in his supreme holiness and showed Israel the requirements of righteous living.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13:

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,¹³ To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

The Law established rules for personal conduct and for individual and corporate worship. It formed the "middle wall of partition" between the Jews and the Gentiles, keeping the Jews a distinct people. Most importantly, by giving man a standard by which to measure his thoughts and deeds, God revealed man's sinful condition and proved that no man could attain the righteousness of God by his own works. All this was to one deliberate end: to bring

the Jews to faith in the Messiah of God.

Galatians 3:24:

Wherefore the law was our school-master to *bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

You see, even though Israel was chosen by God, the sin nature inherent in mankind kept her from living the life of holiness that God requires of his people. Knowing *what to do* was not enough. She *could not* do it! She needed to be transformed. Finally, in the days of Jeremiah, God promised to give Israel a *new* heart by way of a covenant that was *better* than the Mosaic Law.

Jeremiah 31:31-33:

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

In the book of Hebrews, the “first” covenant is compared with the “better” covenant. But this is *not* a comparison between Judaism and Christianity, or salvation by works and salvation by grace. (Let me say it again: salvation by works was *never* possible!) The comparison in Hebrews is between the two covenants God made *with Israel*: the Mosaic covenant (the law of Moses) and the New Covenant.

Hebrews 8:6-7:

But now hath he obtained a more

excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. ⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

The purpose of the book of Hebrews is to show Israel that the “New Covenant” was God’s plan from the very beginning. All the splendid intricacies of the Mosaic Law were only types and shadows of something far better. This New Covenant, sealed in the blood of God’s only begotten Son, is the eternal truth behind every temporal symbol in the Old Testament.

The Structure of the Book

The epistle of Hebrews divides into three main sections (please see my chart on page 2). The first part (A) establishes the supremacy of Jesus over the prophets, the angels, and Moses. The second part (B) shows the supremacy of Christ as high priest over any descendant of Aaron. The third part (C) declares the supremacy of living by faith in Christ as witnessed by many revered people of the Old Testament.

Set among these three main sections are five warnings to God’s people in the hope that they will avoid making the same mistake as their ancestors.

Romans 9:32-33:

Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; ³³ As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

A. The Supremacy of Christ’s Person

(Hebrews 1:1 to 4:16)

The Old Testament Jew esteemed no witnesses greater than the proph-

ets, the angels, and Moses. After all, it was by the word of the Lord given to the angels, the prophets, and especially Moses that Israel's relationship with God was established. But in this first section of Hebrews, Christ is shown to be vastly superior to all three. Why? Because Jesus is the Son of God, perfectly human and infinitely divine. He has "by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they" (Heb. 1:4). Consider the concluding argument to this section:

Hebrews 4:14-16:

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like *as we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The first of five warnings to Israel is found in Chapter Two. The logic is infallible. If we (that is, Israel) gave heed to the prophets, angels, and Moses, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" (Heb. 2:3).

The second warning is found in Chapter Three. Verse eight says, "Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness." Spurred on by the evil testimony of the ten unbelieving spies, the children of Israel rose up to slay Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, and return to Egypt. An angry God intervened saying, "Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it" (Num. 14:23). This is the "provocation in the wilderness" that

led to the forty years of wandering.

But know this: the children of Israel were still God's people even as they wandered in the wilderness. God's covenant with them was *unconditional*. However, this generation did not enter into the land of Promise. Why? "They could not enter in," says Hebrews 3:19, "because of unbelief."

Israel failed to walk with God because she tried to establish her own righteousness. She did not enter into the rest provided by Christ. God does not want to see any more of his people (whether they be of the Jews or Gentiles) lost in the wilderness of self-justification.

B. The Supremacy of Christ's Work

(Hebrews 5:1 to 10:25)

In the second section of Hebrews, the ministry of Christ is proven superior to the priesthood, sacrifices, and ordinances of the Old Testament. Those things that went before – the Levitical priesthood, the Tabernacle, the yearly sacrifices and offerings – were only "a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things" (Heb. 10:1).

Hebrews 8:1-2:

Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ²A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Christ's supremacy (and therefore the supremacy of the New Covenant) is established by two unassailable oaths.

Hebrews 6:18:

That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. . . .

What are these two oaths? The first declares, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." Voiced by David in Psalm 2:7, it is cited *twice* in the book of Hebrews, in 1:5 and 5:5. The second oath, "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec," is found *six* times: in Hebrews 5:6, 5:10, 6:20, 7:11, 7:17, and 7:21. Again we see that Jesus is superior to all his predecessors by reason of his perfection. Furthermore, his priesthood is not of Aaron, but of Melchisedec; it is eternal and not temporal.

The third warning to the Hebrews appears in this second section, and confronts those who are "dull of hearing" (5:11).

Hebrews 5:12:

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

The Holy Spirit chastises people who should already know such things to master "the principles of the doctrine of Christ" (6:1), the fundamental truths of the Word of God. How can they possibly digest the "meat" of this epistle when they have yet to acquaint themselves with the milk?

The second part of the book of Hebrews implores God's chosen people to finally enter into that place of rest made possible by the ministry of his Son.

Hebrews 10:19-20:

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. . . .

C. The Supremacy of Faith in Christ

(Hebrews 10:26 to 13:17)

The last section of Hebrews con-

cerns the supremacy of a life lived in faith. The Jews are reminded of their forefathers who remained faithful to God despite the hardships they were forced to endure. This portion of Hebrews includes the chapter some people call "the believer's hall of fame." Here the secret of their success is revealed. The saints of old found rest in their faith in things unseen, that is to say, in the invisible Christ. When you read, "by faith Noah," or "by faith Abraham," understand it as it was meant to be understood – by faith in Christ!

What a surprise to those Jews who have dismissed Jesus as an illegitimately-born cult leader to realize that Moses himself was made able to endure by his faith in Christ!

Hebrews 11:26-27:

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

The final two warnings to the Jews are given in this section. First comes a word about drawing back.

Hebrews 10:38:

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Does anyone need a reminder of God's anger when his people wanted to return to Egypt? God forbid they should now seek to return to the law of Moses! The days of the annual sacrifices made by Levitical priests are over. The only sacrifice that can atone for man's sins is that of Christ our Passover.

Hebrews 10:26-27:

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ But a certain

fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

The final warning is to any who refuse God's admonition to believe on Christ.

Hebrews 12:25:

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven. . . .

Much of Israel will face a terrible time of testing known as the Great Tribulation. But those who have put their trust in Christ will be safely secured away in heaven.

Isaiah 26:20:

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Thankfully, one day, by the same grace that saved you and me, all Israel will come to the acknowledgement of the truth.

Romans 11:26-27:

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷ For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

This blessed end is assured by a new and better covenant in Christ.

Hebrews 12:24:

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Here is a favorite verse among Christians:

Hebrews 12:2:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him

endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I believe most Christians read this verse with the understanding that Jesus is the author and finisher of the *Christian* faith. There is a greater truth to be seen. God is speaking to Israel saying, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven" (Acts 1:11); this same Jesus, "whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go" (Acts 3:13); this same Jesus is the author and finisher of the *Judaic* faith. This was God's plan from the beginning!

The fascinating truths found in the book of Hebrews deserve a far more comprehensive examination than what you've read in these few pages. Still, I hope this brief study and its companion outline will add enrichment and enjoyment to your reading of this wonderful epistle.

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Think on These Things

BY REV. EVAN B. PYLE
Head Pastor, WTWH

Philippians 4:8:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

When the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write “think on these things,” he delivered a mandate to the people of God to direct their thinking in a godly way. According to the list in Philippians 4:8, we are to think upon the attributes of our Creator and of his creation. These are things that glorify and please God.

The idea that one may direct one’s thoughts in a particular way is foreign to many people. As far as they know, thoughts simply *happen*. But the fact that God calls on us to direct our thinking means that we are able to do it. When the Lord commands us to do something, he also enables us to carry it out.

Thoughts bear fruit. Thoughts are the seeds of words and deeds. You cannot plant evil seed to bear good fruit, and good seed cannot produce evil fruit. God is calling on us to plant seeds that are true, honest, lovely, pure and virtuous.

Jeremiah 6:19:

Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Proverbs 21:5:

The thoughts of the diligent *tend* only to plenteousness; but of every one *that is* hasty only to want.

Matthew 15:19:

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. . . .

God knows our thoughts and he is concerned with their content. He pays attention to what we are thinking because our thinking reveals the state of our heart and motivation.

Psalms 94:11:

The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they *are* vanity.

God sets the highest standard for our thinking. Jesus told his followers that whoever looked on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery in his heart (Matt. 5:28). It is not enough simply to direct our actions in a God-pleasing manner, but we must also direct our thoughts away from this fallen world and its sinful ways and toward thoughts that reflect God’s holy nature.

When the Holy Spirit tells us that the love of God “thinketh no evil” (1 Cor. 13:5), he sets a standard that fallen man cannot approach. It is an unattainable benchmark that seemingly sets us up for failure. But God has made a way through Christ. His provision is the “mind of Christ,” given to born-again believers in Jesus. Our part is to *put off* the old and *put on* Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16:

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Romans 13:14:

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Galatians 5:16:

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

The word of God is critical to thinking rightly for it has the power

to discern our thoughts and intentions. We as fallen humans have an almost limitless capacity to deceive ourselves. We need continual input from the word of God, in whose light every wrong way is revealed and the right way illumined so we can walk therein.

Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We do not always recognize when our thoughts have taken a wrong turn because so much of our thinking is the result of habit. The Scriptures alert us to our errant ways and challenge us to direct our thinking in a God-honoring way. Paul compared guiding one's thoughts to a battle against a fortified enemy.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5:

(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. . . .

Like any great change, redirecting our thoughts is difficult work. To win the fight we must wield those spiritual weapons that God gave us in Christ. Old habits will rise up against any attempt to impose a change. **We need persistence and determination** to persevere in this fight and establish godly habits. Paul pointed out the indignant, zealous attitude we must cultivate if we are to conquer sinful patterns.

2 Corinthians 7:11:

For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what

carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

I pray that we may cultivate a godly zeal against the things that displease our Lord. The fruit of godly repentance is zeal for the things that please God and against the things that do not. Until we attack the strongholds of sinful thinking with indignation, fear, vehement desire, and revenge; we will continue to coexist with our old ways. Now is not the time to be satisfied and at peace with our current progress. It is the time to put off the old and to put on Christ, making no room for the flesh (Rom. 13:14). As Paul said, "Walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

God promises that if we **commit our works unto the Lord**, our thoughts will be established (Prov. 16:3). The opposite is equally true: If we fail to commit our ways to God, our thoughts will flit to and fro. They have no sure foundation, no standard of measure on which to find firm footing.

Jeremiah 4:14:

O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

Job 31:1:

I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

The Christian discipline of directing our thoughts in a godly manner is summarized: "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh" (Rom. 13:14). The Bible calls for disciples to put off the "old man" with its deceitful lusts and to put on the "new man," which is created in righteousness and true ho-

liness (Eph. 4:22, 24). The power for a changed life is the indwelling Holy Spirit given to all who believe on Jesus. It is impossible to “improve” our old ways into something acceptable to God. We are to consider ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:11). “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus is our provision for godly thinking, for “we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Timothy 4:15:

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

We are to think upon godly, God-honoring, God-glorifying things. When we do, our thoughts are seeds that will bear fruit in righteous deeds, a true peace, and a Christ-like demeanor. Jesus is our provision in all things. He enables us to put off the old and to put on Christ. Through him we are able to live a life in which old things are passed away and all things are become new.



One Soldier Speaks:

TEMPTATION and Its Edge

BY REV. F. JAY PEARSON
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

We all face temptation every day. Temptation entices us to desire what we know we should avoid. Temptation also prevents us from doing what we know we should do. Although we are constantly confronted with temptation, we don't have to submit to it.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13:

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.
¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

We will all be tempted, but God will make a way to escape temptation.

I used to bass fish a lot. As the shiny fishing lure wiggles through the water, it sparkles and entices. So the hungry fish goes for it. The next thing he knows he's hooked and headed for the frying pan.

Not doing what you know to do in the Word of God, or doing what you know you should not do is a sin. Sin is not something to play around with. Temptation is the “shiny lure” of sin. It is the thing that looks good until it latches onto you.

Proverbs 7:21-23:

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
²² He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
²³ Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.

When I trained to be a motorcycle safety instructor for the Riders Edge Program of Harley Davidson of Baton Rouge, I received a shirt that says *LIFE STARTS ON THE EDGE*. I'm sure you've heard similar sayings about living on the edge and the adrenalin "rush" of it. It's the edge of danger that excites the doer. The natural man may enjoy temptation and its luster and short lived pleasures. Not so for you and me. To the Christian, living on the edge of sin is dating the devil. By flirting with sin we risk the opportunity of rewards and crowns to lay at our Lord's feet when we stand before him on that day.

Proverbs 5:1-9 :

My son, attend unto my wisdom, *and* bow thine ear to my understanding: ² That thou mayest regard discretion, and *that* thy lips may keep knowledge. ³ For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil: ⁴ But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. ⁶ Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* thou canst not know *them*. ⁷ Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. ⁸ Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: ⁹ Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel. . . .

God enables us to resist temptation by providing armor for our battles.

Ephesians 6:10-13:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against prin-

cialities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

In his Word God tells us how to avoid the lure of temptation in our lives. The book of James tells us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

James 1:22:

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Hearing God's Word is important. But the reason we need to *hear* the Word is so that we can *do* the Word. When we are busy doing God's Word, we are not as easily distracted by temptation.

Doing God's Word requires diligence and faithfulness. We must endure hardship as a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

We also need to take responsibility for our own actions.

James 1:13-15:

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The circumstances we embrace and the choices we make affect the

consequences of our actions. Playing around on the edge of something makes it easier to fall into. We are instructed to stand on the Word and avoid temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:12 :

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Sometimes we find ourselves in situations beyond our control, but many of our circumstances are self made. We put ourselves in places or activities that we know we should avoid. Circumstances, controlled or uncontrolled, real or imagined, physical or spiritual, offer a multitude of choices. Temptation is to be avoided. Choose where you go and how you spend your time with discretion. Don't hang around or play on the edge of sin; escape.

Here is my confession: Instead of turning away from sin, there have been times I saw how close I could get to the edge without falling in. We all have certain areas of vulnerability. Identify those areas in your life so that you are aware of where your weaknesses are. Think about times when you have yielded to temptation and suffered consequences. Ask yourself the question posed in Romans 6:

Romans 6:21:

What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

When we do fall into temptation, we need to seek the Lord's way to escape. There is a joy in overcoming temptation.

James 1:2-4:

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Walk circumspectly. Consider the consequence of your choice *before* you act.

Ephesians 5:15-17:

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

Call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ your deliverer.

2 Peter 2:9:

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Remember these three verses when tempted to court the edge of temptation:

1 Corinthians 10:12-13:

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Thank God we have a merciful Lord and Savior. Life does not start on the edge. Life thrives in the center of God's will!

Audio recordings of selected teachings from our weekly services can now be heard or downloaded at our website:

wtwh.org



**On the (Pothole) Road:
Our Mission to Kimilili**

BY DANIEL BUCHER
Walenstadt, Switzerland

I come from a country which ranks at the top in many world statistics. Switzerland excels in health care, education, and social welfare. There is almost no unemployment. When I look at these things, I know I am blessed and privileged to live where I live. But as we all know, even in a perfect environment it is easy to become unsatisfied to the point where even small, insignificant things start to bother you. As Mohandas Gandhi once said, "A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes."

I was blessed to be a part of the Workers Together with Him mission to Kimilili, Kenya. I have been to Africa before, and I have been involved in missions to different countries, but this time it was as if I had stepped into another world. I'd forgotten all my past impressions, emotions and feelings. I'd forgotten that I'd be on a continent where people struggled for all the basic things I took for granted. I had forgotten about the fight these people have to face every day to keep on living. But I had also forgotten the happiness and the peace that I saw on their faces, and the satisfaction they enjoyed to be our hosts.

Reverend John Opio was this perfect host, and he made this mission a smooth and uncomplicated ride. The accommodations, transportation, and the location for the seminar were organized in a great manner so that Tim and Jay had the best foundation upon which to teach the Word of God. Rev. Opio is a very humble man and a true disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. My prayers are with his vision to bring the truth of God's Word to people so they can teach others.

Every morning as we traveled to the class location, we had to drive on a road that halfway was full of potholes and the other half was smooth and easy. This "Pothole Road" was like a thread woven through the fabric of our mission.

In his seminar "Questions Seldom Asked, and Answers Seldom Heard" Jay taught that the potholes represent the sin in the world, and that we need the fuel of our hope in Christ to carry us through these rough roads. We need this hope to reach our destination.

Tim used the example of the pothole in his series, "The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ." He taught that the potholes exist because the foundation was not right. Jesus is the rock, the foundation, and the chief cornerstone of our faith. Psalm 11:3 says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

The week of teaching ended with the ordination of eight students who had completed their training with Christian Life Teachings International.

This journey showed me that it does not matter where you live and what struggles you have to overcome. We all are in different circumstances and we will make our choices. Whatever we choose will result in consequences that will determine our walk. But our Lord is faithful and just, and if we have our foundation right and have enough fuel to keep moving forward, we will stand at the judgment seat with our heads held high.

Thank you for the prayers which you offered to God for our journey. Thanks also to our Christian family in Africa for their hospitality, and to my two travel companions and friends who undertook this journey with me. Above all I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for allowing me to be a tool to further the Gospel which brings deliverance to his people.



So the Maasai can see Jesus

BY REV. PAULO KURUPASHI
Iringa, Tanzania

In January, 2012, I was happy to participate in another WTWH mission trip to the Maasai people of Matebete Village in Tanzania, East Africa.

Rev. Tim Sullivan and Rev. Evan Pyle (who we named “donkeys of the Gospel”) came and taught lessons that included “The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ.” They also made audio recordings of the class for future use.

Through the testimonies of those who attended the classes, we know that the teachings were a great inspiration. We give glory and honor to God because these things were accomplished by the power of his might.

One of the testimonies that inspired me personally was given by Patrick Ole Kinana of the Church of Christ. He said that the Maasai people have long believed that Christianity is the white man’s religion. Christianity was brought to the Maasai by the white people (wazungu) and there are many white missionaries in Africa.

WTWH has a baby here in Matebete which is called “ITO” (Ilaasack tenebo oninye is “workers together with him” in the Maa language). ITO does Maasai to Maasai mission work. Last year through support from WTWH, we went on two mission trips to other Maasai villages beyond Matebete village, to Walanji village and Mwanavala village. These missions were done without Rev. Tim or Rev. Evan, and this was a good step. Maasai men and women who have sat through their teachings went forth

on their own to teach the Word of God to their fellow Maasai in their own language.

ITO mission trips show that Christianity is not just for the white people but for all white and black people.

There is another step that Maasai people are waiting for and hope to see on future missions. We want to show our people that it is possible for the white man to sit down and listen to a Maasai person teaching the Word of God. This vision was brought by one of the students in the seminar. He said that in order for the Maasai to believe that the God preached by white people is the same God preached by the Maasai, they need to see that the white man can also sit down and listen to a Maasai preaching. It is our prayer that Rev. Tim and Rev. Evan can go with us on one of ITO mission trips, not to teach but to sit and listen as the Maasai teach the Word of God. We believe this will help the Maasai change their mind and think differently. This will help them to see Jesus and trust in him, and not in the white people.



A WTWH mission like the one suggested by the members of ITO is being planned for the near future.

WTWH Mission Photos



*Class Participants and Guests
Kimilili Town, Kenya*



*Class Participants
Matebete Village, Tanzania*

Reports from these missions and many more photographs are posted on our website, www.wtwh.org



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WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM is an international Christian ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the message of salvation and the education of Christians to the end that they be a living testimony of God's love, power and glory. Teachings are distributed via congregational meetings, seminars, recordings, and various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

All Scripture referenced in this publication is from the King James Version of the Bible, as quoted in BibleWorks for Windows, Version 7.0 © 2006

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