

## Notes for Study Group Leaders - Hebrews Chapter 2

### 1 The Requirement of a Correct Response to the Message of Christ (v1):

From verse 1 discuss the meaning and the real life discipleship application of:

- pay careful attention
- what we have heard
- we do not drift away

In the light of this verse is backsliding best viewed as an 'event' or a 'process'?  
What does this verse tell us about backsliding and how to battle against it?

### 2 The Consequences of an Inappropriate Response (vv2-3):

The O.T. covenant had real and specific blessings for obedience and real and specific curses for disobedience. Under the N.T. covenant what is the situation? (c.f. Acts 5:1-10, 1 Cor 11:29-30, James 5:14-16)

### 3 The Confirmation of the Message (vv3-4):

Which members of the Trinity were involved in the proclamation and confirmation of the message of Jesus?

How does the writer of Hebrews say that the message has been confirmed?

In your own experience of the Christian message, how has it been confirmed to you?

### 4 The Glorification of Christ and of Man (vv5-10):

What was man and woman's original rôle given to them by God? (c.f. Gen.1:28; 2:15, 19-20)

In what ways do we not see all things subject to man at the moment?

In Adam mankind sold his 'birthright' of divine sonship and place of authority for a bite of apple. Esau likewise sold the firstborn's birthright of blessing for a bowl of soup. The question being asked of the Hebrew Christians is 'Will you also 'sell' the adamic birthright that is restored to you in promise through your faith in Christ, and if so for what price?' What do contemporary Christians sell their birthright for?

Can you imagine what it will be like when redeemed men and women are finally able to fully exercise their rule and authority over creation?

Why, in the light of man's loss of his authority and power, does the author of Hebrews point us to the glorified Christ? What is the connection? What is the significance?

What does the phrase 'bringing many sons to glory' mean?

### 5 The Process of Glorification (vv10-13):

Why is suffering essential to the perfection of the saints? (c.f. 2 Tim 2:12, Psalm 119:67,71, Romans 5:3-5, 1 Thess. 3:2-5, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:10)

Discuss the following phrases;

- 'Whole, unbruised, unbroken men are of little use to God.' (J.R. Miller)

- 'God does not make us holy in the sense of character; He makes us holy in the sense of innocence, and we have to turn that innocence into holy character by a series of moral choices. These choices are continually in antagonism to the entrenchments of our natural life' (Oswald Chambers)

- Suffering, from whatever source, of whatever nature, and of whatever intensity, plus triumphant acceptance equals character (Rom. 5:3-4). Character (agape love) is the coin, the legal tender of heaven. (Don't waste your Sorrows - Paul E. Billheimer)

## **6 Death is Destroyed, Fear's Slavery is Broken (vv14-16)**

What are the reasons for mankind's fear of death?

How has Jesus released us from the power of death?

How and why should a Christian's view of death differ from that of a non-Christian?

What are the practical consequences of being released from the fear of death?

## **7 Jesus Our High Priest (vv17-18):**

What qualities did Jesus' incarnation and human suffering develop in him for his high priesthood?

As Jesus was both God and Man, do you think temptation was a more or less painful experience for Him than it is for us?