

The Book of Hebrews

Sunday, May 31, 2015

Hebrews 6:13-19

I. Introduction

God's integrity and faithfulness are the real theme of this passage. Abraham is simply an example of those who trust God's faithfulness to His Word, His Promises - this truth alone makes our trust of any value.

II. God Is Trustworthy (v.13-16)

Abraham is given as "Exhibit A" in the author's example of how trustworthy God is to his people.

v.15 – *"Abraham having patiently waited, obtained the promise."*

For 25 years Abraham held fast to God's promise of a seed, his precious Isaac! And even then Abraham did not see the total fulfillment of the Promises of God.

1 Corinthians 13:4 says, "Love is patient (makrothumeo)" describes especially patience towards people who act unjustly toward us.

v.16 - The oath, which is used with a view to confirming something, is the end of all disputes. The confident hope which God's oath warrants is justified by the fact that even a human oath puts an end to dispute.

There has never been anyone who trusted in God's promises and was finally disappointed. God may delay the visible answers to His promises, because He always answers in his time, not in ours. But He is utterly trustworthy to keep His Word. If He has promised eternal salvation to the one who has faith in Jesus, you can count on it as absolutely true!

III. God Doesn't Lie (v17-18)

V.17 – *"So when God desired...to the heirs of the promise"*

God desired to give proof and demonstrate how committed He was to carry out His promise to the readers (heirs) by giving His oath as surety or guarantee.

How are you and I 'heirs of the promise' when we are Gentiles? Galatians 3:29 *"If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."*

v.18 – *"two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie..."*

What are these two unchangeable things: 1) his promise, 2) his oath!

This is a good thought; if God had sworn by any thing finite, that thing might fail, and then the obligation would be at an end, but he has sworn by what is infinite, and cannot fail; therefore his oath is of eternal obligation.

v.18b – “we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.”

There appears to be an allusion here to the cities of refuge, and to the persons who fled to them for safety (Numbers 35:9-12).

IV. God Has Given Us an Anchor (v.19-20)

v.19 – “...sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...”

Sure is an adjective which literally means that which cannot be thrown down, tripped up, tottered or overthrown. It describes that which is secure and safe from stumbling or falling.

Steadfast - "speaks of something which does not break down under the weight of something that steps on it. This hope which the believing soul has in the Lord Jesus is an anchor of the soul which cannot be made to totter nor break down when put under stress and strain. It is the anchor that enters into that within the veil.

v.20 – “where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...”

That He is a “forerunner” sets Him apart from the Levitical high priest who entered alone as the people waited outside. Jesus has gone before to open up the way for His people to follow Him which makes Him is far different and much better than the Old Testament high priests.

v.20b – “...having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Our author now takes us back to Melchizedek and we will look at him next week!

V. Conclusion