**“An Unshakable Kingdom: A New and Living Way”**

Hebrews; 2 Corinth. 3:7-11

(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 3/26/23)

 The Book of Hebrews is a treasure. It is a letter about a change of covenants, from the incriminating letter of the law, to the ministry of the Spirit, a ministry of righteousness. Hebrews uses the imagery of Hagar, a bondwoman clinging to the law, juxtaposed with Sarah, a free woman living a life of faith. The message? The Old Covenant has passed away; it has served its purpose of pointing to the New Covenant of faith in Jesus Christ. (Q1)

 Paul was persecuted for teaching about the freedom of the New Covenant (Acts 21:27-28). Steven was killed because he testified that the New Covenant had come. It’s ironic that what the Pharisees labeled blasphemy was, in reality, their only hope. They pursued reconciliation with God by works, not by faith (Rom. 9:30-33). When the scales fell from Paul’s eyes, he knew that salvation was through faith in Christ, not the works of the law. The true Israel is the Israel of faith. The Book of Hebrews exhorts us to stand fast in our faith! Do not move back to the ministry of the law (legalism). (Q2)

 The whole Bible points to Jesus. In Hebrews alone there are over 200 connections to the Old Testament (see Heb. 10:4-7 for one of the best ones). (Q3) We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once and for all. The Book of Hebrews shows the superiority of Christ, and the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old. The first Adam brought death; the second Adam brought life, bringing hope! The Law allowed us to see sin for what it is. (Q4) The New Covenant through Christ takes care of that sin. Jesus, the King, overcomes all enemies, even death. We are so fortunate to be grafted into this Kingdom!

 Those brought to life by the Spirit in the New Covenant had a problem: persecution. It would have been tempting to return to the old way, the way you were being pulled by your friends and family. The Book of Hebrews is a sermon that says “stand firm; don’t go back.” (Heb. 10:39). Hebrews teaches that Moses, Joshua, and the prophets all pointed to Christ. The Old Covenant priesthood and the priest/king Melchizedek pointed to Christ. Jesus is God’s Son, the only means of salvation. To those being persecuted, Hebrews says you can get through this, because “He who promised is faithful!” (Heb. 10:23) The ministry written on tablets of stone has become the ministry of the Spirit of the Living Christ (2 Corinth. 3:10). (Q5) Let us always be grateful that we belong to a “Kingdom that cannot be shaken.” (Heb. 12:28)

 “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.” (Heb. 13:20-21) (Q6)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What does it mean to live a life of faith? (Maybe this quote from Charles Stanley will help you: “Trials are God’s tools to test your faith in His ability.”)
2. How does a Christian stand firm in her faith?
3. Why does the author of Hebrews connect to the Old Testament so often?
4. When you boil it down to its essence, what is sin? How has your heart changed toward sin now that you follow Jesus?
5. List all of the ways the Holy Spirit ministers to us and for us and through us.
6. How does God equip you? At this stage of your life, what is your role in the expansion of His Kingdom?

“Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our Blessed Redeemer” (Fanny Crosby)

1. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth—His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor give to His holy Name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,
In His arms He carries them all day long.
	* Refrain:
	Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness;
	Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song!
2. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died.
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the Crucified.
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.
3. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heav’nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,
Pow’r and glory unto the Lord belong.