

Trinity UMC Bible Study
Hebrews 10:19-39

Rex's responses in green. Karl's responses in blue. My responses in red.

- I. Read the second half of Hebrews in one reading.
- II. Run the following verses through your "human experience."

vss 10:19 - 21 The privilege of living in the Divine Presence.

In these verses are some beautiful metaphors along with several allusions to the OT High Priest.

Work on: "Most Holy Place" Think of "God's home and make some associations through "gut trip" analysis. What do we experience in the presence of God?

"Most Holy Place" is in the presence of God and Christ. A place of perfect peace and at-one-ment.

Spiritual or inner peace--At-one-ment. OK, I believe we are all on the same page. Wonderful.

Blood of Jesus: The comments on Hebrews 9, part III will be helpful here.

Because of his sacrifice, we have faith (hope) for forgiveness so that we can be at one with everything. Basically the same as above. Jesus' blood was the perfect sacrifice to free us from our estrangement with God.

The only thing missing here is to say "why this sacrifice was necessary in the first place: how did we get "estranged from God?" If were in need to be "at one with everything," does this imply we are not at-one in the first place?"

My mind goes back to the Genesis account, to the story of the First Adam whose disobedience describes our HUMAN CONDITION of living eternally and fated in our separation from neighbor, self and God (The triune formula of the New Commandment of Jesus). The only way to redress this disobedience was a profound act of obedience to rebalance our human books. This profound act of Jesus resulted in our RECONCILIATION, our/or BEING MADE RIGHTEOUS, and/or being ATONED!

As Paul reminds us, some people might die for a "righteous cause" (WWII, Gulf War I, maybe Gulf War II?), and some might die for a "righteous person." But who would die for "a bunch of sinners fated to live in eternal separation?"

God had the same problem that you are trying to figure out now. NO ONE WOULD DIE to rebalance the human books for SINNERS!! So, because God loves us so much that he gave his only son to die for us on the cross. In the process, death itself is defeated, and we gain the hope of living in perpetual peace in God's Kingdom of PERFECT AT-ONE-MENT. AMEN!

Vss 10: 22 Blessed assurance

What would cause us to have a "guilty conscience? Do a "gut trip" analysis. This should be easy.

Anti-atonement--past sins unforgiven because of our lack of faith in asking for

forgiveness. If we continue to do things that are anti-at-one-ment then we will have a guilty conscience. U-m-m-m, Rex is on to something here. Karl, your statement begs to ask the question "what is the cause of our lack of faith?" It is not a moral cause: because we are bad; it is not a social, political or economic cause: because we are strapped for cash. The reason is not a theological cause: because we "lack" something. There is a HUMAN REASON: we are 1) spiritually asleep and can't awaken ourselves--although, we are not victims, just that we are asleep, AND WE NEED IHOP BIBLE STUDY STUDENTS TO WAKE US UP. 2) We are absent from God because we are human. Now, how do we know this is true? Viola! Because we have a "guilty conscience!" Yes, sir!

How does being "sprinkled with blood" offer us forgiveness? Again, Hebrews 9 may offer some help. Think for a minute about the necessary sacrifice of Christ to "rebalance the books" of the first Adam's (and ours) disobedience. This blood is the off-setting act of obedience that offers to "reconcile our books," to "justify our relationships," and to provide for our "atonement." (Yes, our At-One-Ment.) Somehow, I'm hopeful that these words will provide enough grist for you to write a sentence to explain the question.

Christ's blood was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. I agree, but how does this work? This is pretty "head trippy."

The "blood sacrifice" is the alarm clock to awaken us. When Jesus climbed on his cross, the last seconds of our spiritual sleep were ticking! Then, just like our morning alarm clock, there is that awful silence just before it starts ringing. Then, on Sunday, the blessed clock started chiming, and ringing, and clanging! Whoa! Our eternal sleep is over! Our eternal relationship in God's Kingdom of Perfect At-One-Ment began!!!!

vss 10: 23 - 25 How we hang on to hope.

First off, run "hope" through your human experience. Does the lexicon say any thing to help? I can't remember; maybe not. A couple weeks ago, a Saline County prisoner was awakened to "hope" in the middle of his "hopelessness." Hopelessness has something to do with being spiritually asleep, and doing dumb things that is the antithesis of At-One-Ment. Struggle with it a bit, OK?

Our hope is placed on the sure and faithful promises of God. (Lots of goodies here. What is the "gut trip" analysis of it? The "Promise of God" is that we experience At-One-Ment in our daily lives, and receive the Peace that passes understanding." This promise is "sure" because we understand that anti-at-one-ment is destructive to us personally and all of our relationships. This promise is "faithful" because we can bet our lives that "the reward is found in the deed"-- we do dumb things and get the dunce cap; we do good things and we get the happy cap.)

We can help and encourage each other to keep from falling back into destructive behavior. (OK.)

Hope = Our faith in Christ. This personal relationship helps us grow - become more mature spiritually. U-m-m-m, man, when we write like this we gotta translate: "Hope" is the assurance of things we can't see. "Our faith in Christ" means we can bet life itself that we are sustained when we surrender to the PERFECT AT-ONE-MENT. This is our

HOPE -- we are sustained. Faith requires a leap of faith into our inner spiritual pits because the hole in our middle is where God lives. This is like committing earthly suicide: we died to this world at our baptism! Then, as we begin to spiritually mature, we take the leap of faith in total surrendered in order to experience God's perfect sustenance for us.

Our human story is related to Jesus story: we need to authentically DIE to our trust in this world, in order to be authentically resurrected into PERFECT ATONEMENT through our total dependence on THE GUARANTOR, or the PERFECT AT-ONE-MENT.

Of course, it is my "hope" that this IHOP Bible Study is one way to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (NIV)

There is no other way by which our friends and family are AWAKENED, unless we do it. However, to awaken them with "head trip analysis" is like clubbing them into spiritual consciousness. To awaken them with "Gut Trip Analysis" is like using a stick made of kleenex: it a joyfilled experience, because it is based on "feelings" that are warm and understandable. (U-m-m, kleenex eh? Does that blow you away, or what?)

vss 10: 26 - 28 The Wrath of God: Old Testament Style.

Help may be found in www.studylight.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=heb&chapter=010 See what you can find, or try some of your own study resources. My views will appear in our comment section next week after our study bible study session.

Write a brief summary of this topic!

We have been given the map to find Atonement. It's up to us to follow it. If we don't, we will not be at peace for eternity. Yes, I like this answer!

If we deliberately keep on sinning without repentance, we have given up our faith in Christ and therefore given up our salvation. This is true, but when we are confronted by any "head trip" words, make an effort to translate it using the human experience. Sinning -- anti-at-one-ment; repentance -- turning away from doing the antithesis of at-one-ment; "give up our faith" -- we give up and bet our lives that The Meaning of Life (God) CAN'T be trusted; "in Christ" -- this trust was demonstrated in the sacrificial gift to humanity by one who bet his own life that The Meaning of Life DOES fulfill The Promise! Salvation -- when we absolutely and radically trust that the Meaning of Life does sustain us, we enter into The Realm of God as the Perfect Atonement. Amen!

vss 10: 29 - 31 The Wrath of God: New Testament Style.

Read the above suggestions, and add these verses to it. Write a brief summary statement. In both of these cases, remember the Salmonite adage, "The reward is found in the deed itself." Think about it, run in through your human experience, and we'll talk more later.

I won't feel good about myself because of my continued sin (anti-atonement). No "hope" for continued love of God and continued forgiveness. OK, the first half is fine! The second half needs some help. "Hope" comes to us as a gift. This gift is more like something we ARE rather than something we GET. When we surrender to God absolutely, then like Abram/Sarai, Moses, etc, WE ARE THE HOPE because we know that God does not ever let us down. Yes, we can go back to sleep until our spiritual alarm clocks wake us up (worship, sacraments, sermon. . .) But our intellectual "Hope" for the continued love of God" is misdirected Hope! God already forgives us --WE ARE FORGIVEN -- ETERNALLY FORGIVEN. Our problem is we are asleep to this Good News! Our "forgiveness" is already FORGIVEN! We are left with the possibility of ACCEPTING OUR FORGIVENESS or denying our forgiveness and continuing in spiritual sleep.

If, after accepting Christ's sacrifice for us, we continue deliberate lawlessness, our estrangement and guilt would be worse than if we had never known at-one-ment. Oh yes! This statement tells me where I live, and it tells me about how I can choose to live!

vss 10: 32 - 38 Doing the Will of God

Please don't worry about this section. Just read my comments, or go to the library and check out **Weatherhead: The Will of God**. The book is about 50 pages long. Written in the mid-1940's, and has never been surpassed! It may be available to buy, and your library is not to be found without it. I guarantee it!

vss 10: 39 Your choice: destroyed or saved?

Well, for now, I'll turn this one over to you. In the comments will explore it. Happy hunting, everyone! **LEFT OUT or AWAKENED?**

PASTOR BILL, SORRY I'M LATE THIS (OR LAST) WEEK. DID SOME TRAVELING BACK TO SALINA AND THEN PLAYED IN A 3 DAY GOLF MARATHON HERE. SEE YOU EASTER AT CHURCH. <:-) PB

Note: We will be leaving Florida this Sunday, March 30. We are going to our daughter's in Virginia and will not have access of email from March 29 until we return to Salina approx. April 7. I'll look forward to rejoining the IHOP group April 8 or 15. Yours in Christ, Rex <:-) PB