

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Session: Tuesday, January 28, 2003

IHOP Bible Study

Alright! I'll make this shorter! Although, you people are really good!

HEBREWS 3

1. Read the whole of Chapter 3 in one reading. Note that the purpose of this chapter is a continuation of Chapters 1 and 2. Paul (or Paul's school) is proof-texting; i.e., he is using the references to the old authorities that no Jew could refute to establish that Jesus is the one who is the Christ of God. Who is the "old authority" used in this chapter, and what do you know about him. Perhaps, your study Bible, and/or your Bible Reference can be useful. Summarize your thinking here.

After several days, I'm not sure what my question was here. However, I believe I'm referring to the biblical old authorities of Isaiah 8:17 and 18 (Hebrews vss 7 and 8) and Psalm 95: 7 -11.

To jog your memory, the book of Isaiah is actually two books. Chapter 1 - 39 could be called 1st Isaiah; chapter 40 to the end is 2nd Isaiah. First Isaiah warns the Jews to be faithful to the mission of sharing God's love with all the world, and unless they do, the punishment is exile. Second Isaiah anticipates the return of the Jews to their homeland to rebuild the symbolic center of their faith -- Jerusalem.

2. Vs. 6b — what does it mean, "we are his [God's] house?"

"His house," is a metaphor or simile representing those who are awakened to Atonement. Bible references will identify this simile as "the Jews," or "the faithful." From the context of a Salmonite, to be a "Jew" or to be "faithful" means to be conscious of our purpose as a part of God's creation -- to be At-One with all things.

In fact, Paul makes this point in verse 4 that "God is the builder of everything." Then, makes the statement "Moses was an awakened human and he lived in God's house." In fact, when anyone is awakened to live the Atonement life, we--like Moses--can testify to the future; i.e., living the Atonement life is living the life of eternity.

Vs 6 "Christ. . . is over God's house, and when we have a relationship to The Atonement-We-Call-Christ, we are living in God's house. To live as the awakened ones takes courage and hope."

3. Vss. 7 - 15 --- What is the "warning." Using your "lexicon," try using the meaning of "sinful," "unbelieving," "turning away from God," to understand the "warning." Remember, by running this through your gut, you will appreciate Paul's concern for his Jewish brothers and sisters. (After all, we are their descendants.) Vs. 12 Using your Lexicon, "sin" is doing things opposite of Atonement. "Unbelieving" has a similar meaning." A "believing heart" is one who seeks to increase At-One-ment. The warning refers back the Psalms and the Isaiah quotes in which the Jews paid a price for having gone back to sleep!

4. Vs. 13 --- Paul uses a very curious phrase ". . . as long as it is Today." "Today" is capitalized. Does any of your study resources explain why? In vs. 7b (the beginning of the Isaiah quote), the Isaiah passage begins "Today. . . ." Paul picks up this theme to emphasis the very important work of The Awakened to help other Awakened to remain Awakened.

Isaiah began by saying, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." Paul says, "Every day encourage your colleagues, and what I mean by "TODAY" is the day you hear "God's voice." (i.e., the day you AWAKEN.)

5. The major thrust of this chapter is on the danger of "unbelief." Why is this dangerous?

Unbelief is dangerous because it represents our having returned to sleep during which we do mean spirited things to others and to the environment to drive them away from us. So it is "dangerous" for others, because they can be hurt. It is "dangerous" because we do not fulfill our intended purpose of being human. The end result leads to UN-HUMANNESS (Self depreciation or Pride) or IN-HUMANNESS (RACISM, ECT.)

In verses 16 - 19, Paul records that the Jews went back to sleep and missed the "Promised Land." Again, from the Salmonite point of view, the Promised Land is living in relationship to the Atonment -- living at one with God, Neighbor and Self; this fulfills the intended purpose of being human.

The way in which we avoid this pitfall is to have a belief in Jesus Christ. The Christ is always AWAKE. While we in our humanness may lapse, it is our relationship to Jesus Christ that sustains us - EVEN WHILE WE ARE SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP!

Apparently, the "Hebrews" were not being naughty, but complacent. How does complacency lead to "unbelief?"

Vs. 18 "his rest," refers to our resting in God's rest. "Disobedience" and "unbelief" are conditions of having gone back to sleep.

One suggestion is to go onto the web and simply write in the scripture reference you want to examine. I did this for "Hebrews 3: 1-19, and got a list of reference to

study. www.christinyou.net/pages/hebrews4.html gave me some interesting background--more than I really wanted to know.

The only difficulty I have with Biblical references is they continue to use all of the CODE WORDS, assuming the reader knows the meaning of the Code Words. This is one more reason why developing you own Lexicon is really helpful.

Out of this lesson, what words did you add to your lexicon? List them here. The brave can also list with them the definition given to them.

BE BRAVE -- This is an old indian expression many people use when they know "HOW!"