

Today, I'm using Karl's notes to add my own critique. You'll find Karl's responses in bold black, and mine in red. In particular, read the long explanation of Covenant" and what it means in the last question. "This will provide some help in the last question coming to you in Romans 7.

Here we go.

BRINGING US UP-TO-DATE: Paul, or Paul's school of writers, sends a letter to the Hebrew people who are in DIASPORA--that is, they are spread throughout the Roman Empire. While the "empire" is Roman, the language and thought patterns of the people are now Greek. This message is written using references--or proof-texting--with which every Jew would be familiar. The purpose of the letter is to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Son of God. (The Logos Christ equals The Anointed of God.) The first five chapters are "proof-texting" using figures from Jewish history to illustrate how "the Anointed Christ" was present in the lives of these people and events: angels (chapters 1, 2), Moses (chapter 3), the high priest (chapter 4), Melchizedek (chapter 5). In this week's lesson, Chapter 6, Jesus the Christ is illuminated through the life of father Abraham. **New word for the Lexicon: Diaspora**

#### HEBREWS 6

1. In verses 1 - 3, Paul writes about a "foundation" to which we need not return. The reason we do not need to return to it is that we are now ready to eat meat and "go on to maturity." For yourselves, and your Bible Study colleagues, review the elements of this "foundation" of which Paul writes. (Use your concordance, the lexicon, the Internet, or whatever for help. **Work hard to run these definitions through your human experience-- your gut --and not your head.**)

#### REPENTANCE FROM ACTS THAT LEAD TO DEATH

**We ask forgiveness for previous anti-atonement acts that kills our spiritual lives, drop the guilt as Paul did after witnessing Stephen's stoning.**

**By George, I think you've got it! This took a great "gut" effort. Repentance means to "turn around in the same spot." In one way, nothing is changed, yet all is transformed, because we are looking in a new direction. Remember, "death" comes in a variety of experiences: death can mean "anti-At-one-ment. Or, it can mean the opposite of "reality, authenticity, full humanness, genuine."**

#### FAITH IN GOD IN GOD

**Go forward continually working to be AT-ONE with God, using the "WWJD" phrase. OK. Later this week, read more on this in my "comments. The word "FAITH" literally means to surrender yourself to Perfect At-One-Ment. It is to take the leap of faith into the hole in your middle (yur innards), and to absolutely trust God that you will be sustained. Falling means you are out of control, and God is in control of your life.**

#### THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

**Preparation for doing special service--witnessing,praying,visiting the sick,etc. OK. Ditto above. The laying on of hands is the way in which pastor are "anointed." During Christian baptism, the pastor put water on the head of the person and signs the cross. Then, the family is gathered, and all put their hands on the candidate to pray the Holy Spirit upon them, as the Anointment, or their setting aside to be on God's team.**

#### THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEATH

**Our human trip is over-We are AT-ONE with God. Very good, and ditto above. Just when is our "human trip" over? Physical death? Baptism? Conversion? Death is a form of hopelessness. The resurrection of the death is the defeat of hopelessness.**

## ETERNAL JUDGMENT

**ATONEMENT(with God) or ANTI-ATONEMENT(with the bad guy) U-m-m, this is good, but who is the "bad guy," and why is IT bad? No "bad girls?" More later. The eternal judgment is to deliberately choose to live in anti-At-one-ment; i.e., to live away from God; to live away from the meaning of our lives; to live a life of illusion and UN-reality. Concerning "the bad guy--" The demon is always The Illusionary (the dynamic of hopeless), the Devil is our anthropomorphic understanding of The Big Liar.**

Verses 4 - 6 Using the same methods, Identify the following words:  
ENLIGHTENMENT

**Becoming a believer, Christian, having faith in God. Yes, you are! It means to be Awakened! Or, it means to be Anti-Illusionary.**

## TASTED THE HEAVENLY LIGHT

**Loving and being loved. Nice answer. Remember, heavenly light is the light of God, who is the Perfect Atonement.**

## SHARED THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Loving others, the earth, etc. OK. More later. The Holy Spirit is the experience of Freedom of Choice and the experience of Liberation. We can chose to live authentically and in At-One-Ment, or we can chose to live in Anti-At-One-Ment. All of our choices have consequences. When we live At-One with each other, we experience the consequence of peace, wholeness, health, etc. When we chose to live the other way, the consequences are to live in guilt and shame for the way in which we treat neighbor, self and God.**

## TASTED THE GOODNESS OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE POWERS OF THE COMING AGE

**Feeling good about doing good for others, earth, etc. Nice answer. THE GOOD identifies the "quality of life." It is of more value to sit on a cold stove than a hot one. The things that bless us, and make us whole persons, are of more value. This "value" is the experience of The Good. I like the term "The Awakened" because it so clearly identifies those who are living abundantly, and embrace those things that honor our neighbor, respect ourselves, and loves The Perfect At-One-ment.**

3. Now, we're going to do a little "swearing."

a. Research the difference between a "contract" and a "covenant." See how these definitions help make sense of verses 16 - 20.

b. How does this give us "hope as an anchor for the soul."

**The contract is between God and me and basically requires that I continue to grow spiritually AT-ONE with neighbor, self, earth. Covenant is God's promise of ATONEMENT. Contract is between equal partners. Covenant is between unequal partners: God and me; God said to Abram, "If you will be my people, I will be your God."**

**The Covenant was experienced by the early Jews as a way of live. When a couple wanted to get married, they appeared before the elders of the city to answer for their blessing. They asked, "Show us your covenant." This means, show us how you will treat each other, because this is an indication of how much you love God.**

**They exchanged coats as a sign of putting each other on;**

They exchanged billfolds as a sign that all their financial resources belong to each other;

They exchanged symbolic knives as a sign their enemies and friends belonged to both of them;

They cup a "family sign" into the palm of their right hand to symbolize the sharing of their marriage as the sharing of their blood;

Then, they did a strange thing: they broke bread and fed each other, symbolizing the eating of each other's body--wrapping themselves around the other, symbolizing the nourishing of their marriage--they took a cup of wine and drank each others blood symbolizing the refreshment of their marriage.

You understand now why on the night Jesus was betrayed, he took bread and broke it, he spilled wine and drank it and no one worried about cannibalism. Because, the understood "THE COVENANT."

This is why the marriage service is not completed until the reception, when the couple takes cake and juice and feeds each other. Truly, they are ritualizing their covenant together in light of their covenant with God.

4. How do these things support the unchanging nature of God's purpose?

**God never changes and God never lies. OK. If God is the Perfect At-One-Ment, then it is impossible for "God" to do anything that is Anti-At-One-ment. God's Perfect At-One-Ment is an expression of love.**

Thanks Karl. It appears that the "ol cockpit" is clearing. This is a fine effort, and is appreciated by us all. Pastor Bill