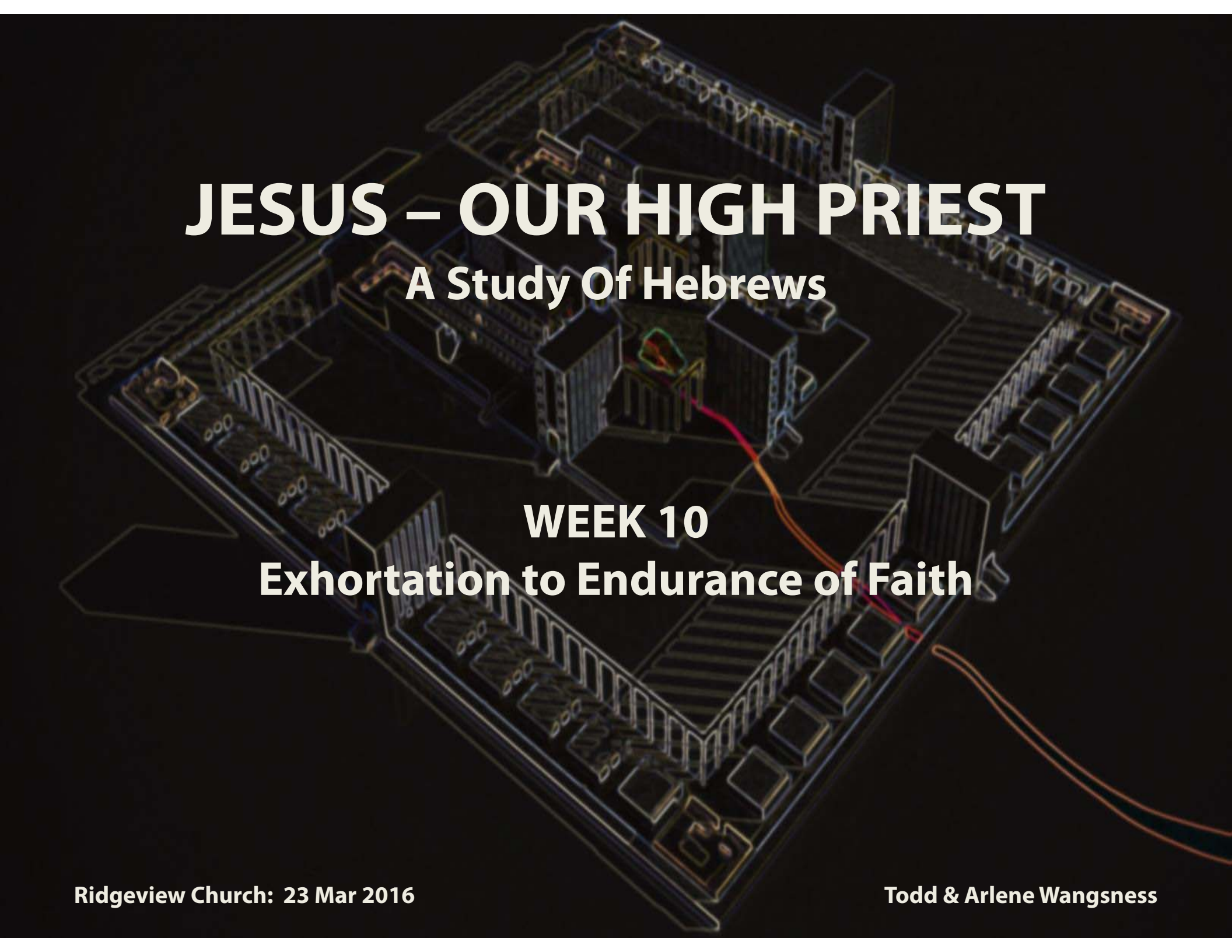


JESUS – OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study Of Hebrews

WEEK 10
Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

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HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

Topics

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Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

1 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." **(Heb 12:1–2)**

- **:1-2 are the theme verses for this chapter**
  - **The Lord is encouraging us to use the examples of saints in the past to keep running our race with endurance…understanding that – although we encounter difficulties and challenges – in Jesus we will prevail!**
- **The believers are now seen as contestants striving to win a prize**
  - **We must see the faith that the Ch.11saints had and imitate it**
  - **We must lay aside anything that keeps us from freely running the race**
- **We must look away from all distractions and focus on Jesus - the Pioneer, Chief, Leader and Finisher of our faith**
  - **The Greek for "*race*" is the origin of the word agony**
- **Jesus "sat down" in Greek means that He sat down in the past and is still sitting there witnessing to an accomplished work**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

3 "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." **(Heb 12:3–6)**

- **:3 *"Consider"* in the Greek means to "reason up" , to add up a column of figures; to make an analogy**
  - **The reader gives a total picture of Jesus' sufferings**
- ***:4* The word *"resisted"* means "to stand in opposition to the enemy on the battle line"**
- ***"Striving"* means agony or antagonism**
  - **The believers need to be so antagonistic to sin that they are willing to die**
  - **It's the same root word as "race"**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

- **:5 The author points out that the purpose of suffering is to bring about the maturity of God's children**
- ***"Forgotten"* means 'to make of little account'**
- **The author quotes Pro 3:11-12 to prove that God disciplines those He loves and that discipline is a sign of sonship**
- ***"Chasten"* means 'moral training' or 'to train up a child'**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

7 "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." **(Heb 12:7–11)**

- **Since the believers were willing to subject themselves to human fathers, how much more should they be willing to subject themselves to their Heavenly Father and, therefore, exercise patient endurance by voluntary submission?**
- **God's discipline produces abundant life and holiness**
  - **It results in righteousness and maturity.**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

12 "Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. 14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:" **(Heb 12:12–14)**

- **:12-13 Believers have an obligation to strengthen the weaker members and remove stumbling blocks to the development of peaceable fruit**
- **:14 Eagerly pursue practical sanctification**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears." **(Heb 12:15–17)**

- **:15-17 There is a three stage progression downward if we don't keep on the lookout:**
  1. **A failure to progress**
     - ***"Falling short"*** **means a "moral separation"**
     - **It's the failure to appropriate grace when something negative comes into our lives**
  2. **The second step is becoming defiled with a root of bitterness which leads in the defilement of many others**
     - **It is used of the Israelites in idolatry (Deut 29:18)**
  3. **The third step is contempt of duty and privilege**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

18 "For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. 20 (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") **(Heb 12:18–21)**

- **:18-21 To go back to the Law was a place of terror**
  - **Paul teaches that going back to the Law is returning to a ministry of death and condemnation. 2 Cor3:2-18**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

22 "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel." **(Heb 12:22–24)**

- **:22 We are under the system of grace**
  - **Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant**
  - **The Greek for *"new"* means "new in point of time"**
  - **This is a fresh and recent revelation that came through the Messiah**
- **:24 The author states that the blood is still visible on the Mercy Seat in The Tabernacle in Heaven**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

25 "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake[h] not only the earth, but also heaven." 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain." **(Heb 12:25–27)**

- **:25 *The word* "see" means beware or lest**
  - **It emphasizes an obligation to not stop our ears to the voice of God**
- **:26-27 The author quotes Hag 2:6 which deals with the final shaking which will take place at the end of the age**
  - **It will introduce a final unshakeable order**
- **The word *"now"* in the Greek indicates the shaking has already begun**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

28 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire." **(Heb 12:28–29)**

- **:28 The application is to once again appropriate grace**
  - **The purpose of appropriating grace is so that we may offer service in a well-pleasing way**
  - **The blood sacrifices are no longer an acceptable way of appropriating grace**
- **:29 God is a God of grace, but also a God judgment for those who fail to appropriate grace**

Hebrews: Exhortation to Endurance of Faith

SUMMARY

- **Back to our theme verses for this chapter**
  - ***"…let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith…"***
- **This reminds us of Jam 1:2-4, 17**
  - ***"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."***
  - ***"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."***
- **Remember that Jesus promises us difficulties in life and challenges in overcoming sin…although it's not pleasant to *'lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us'*, the promise of the glory to come far outweighs anything we face here and now**
- **2 Cor 4:17-18 *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."***