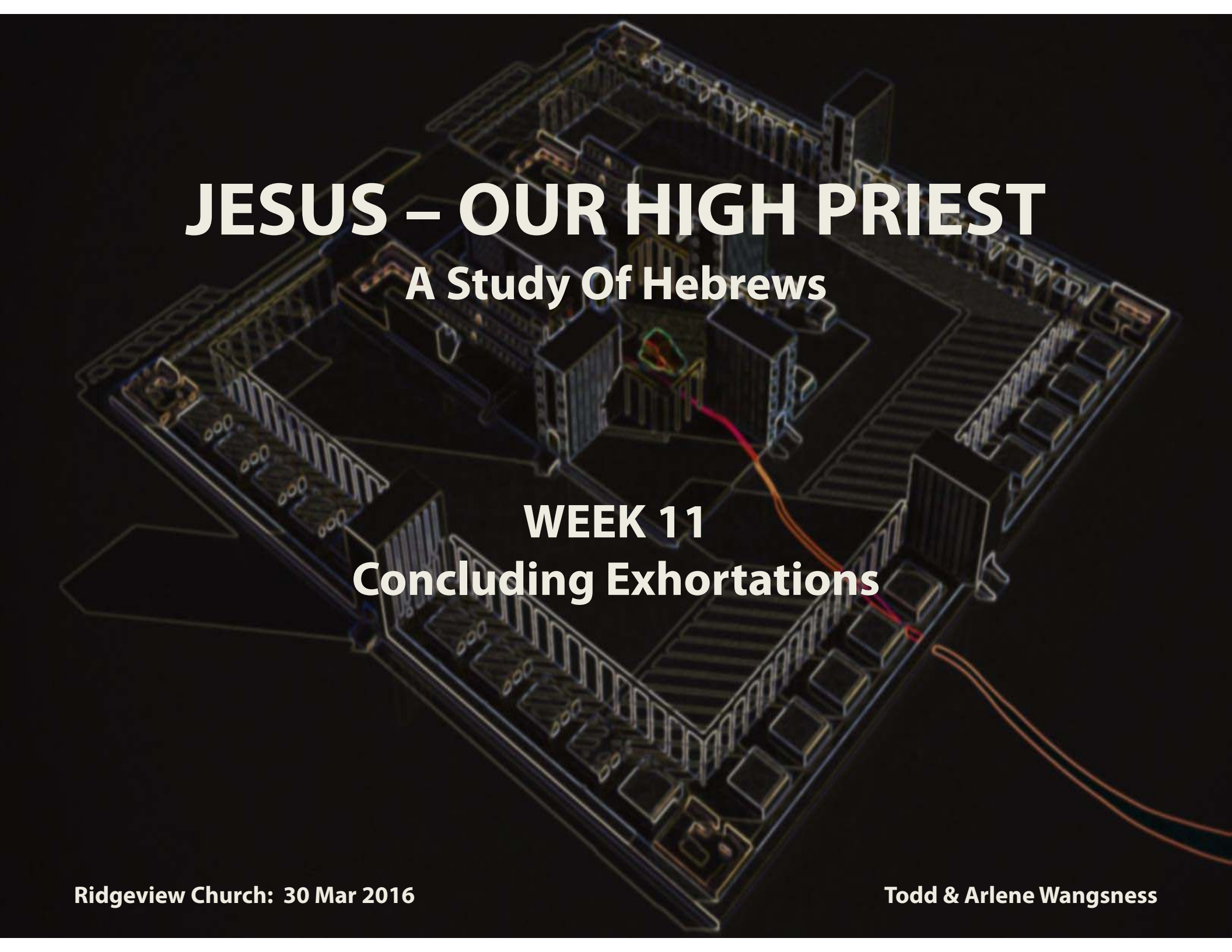


JESUS – OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study Of Hebrews

WEEK 11
Concluding Exhortations

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Todd & Arlene Wangsness

HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

Topics

• Week 1:	Theme, Background and Overview	1:1 – 1:3
• Week 2:	Superiority of the Son to Angels	1:4 – 2:18
• Week 3:	Superiority of the Son to Moses and	3:1 – 3:6
	Warning on the Danger of Disobedience	3:7 – 4:13
• Week 4:	A 'Better' Position and	4:14 – 4:16
	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 1)	5:1 – 6:12
• Week 5:	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 2)	6:13 – 7:28
• Week 6:	A 'Better' Covenant and	8:1 – 8:13
	A 'Better' Sanctuary	9:1 – 9:10
• Week 7:	A 'Better' Sacrifice	9:11 – 10:18
• Week 8:	Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement	10:19 – 10:39
• Week 9:	Evidence of the Life of Faith	11:1 – 11:40
• Week 10:	Exhortation to Endurance of Faith	12:1 – 12:29
• Week 11:	Concluding Exhortations	13:1 – 13:25

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

1 "Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. 3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also." **(Heb 13:1–3)**

<u>SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS</u>

1. **Love of the Brethren**
   - **:1 Greek word: Philadelphia**
2. **Love of Strangers**
   - **:2 Greek word (*philoxenia*) literally means 'love of strangers'**
3. **Sympathy**
   - **:3 There must be a sympathizing fellowship with those who are persecuted in the faith**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

4 "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" **(Heb 13:4–6)**

4. **The Sanctity of Marriage**
   - ***'the bed undefiled'*** **is speaking of sexual purity between partners rather than just about the marriage bed (:4)**
5. **Contentment**
   - **The author stresses that it is a matter of God's faithfulness to provide for the believer's needs (:5-6)**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

7 "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. 9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. 10 "We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." **(Heb 13:7–16)**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

CHRISTIAN OBLIGATIONS

1. **Remember your first christian leaders (:7)**
2. **Give complete devotion to the Messiah (:8)**
   - **Hebrew believers are instructed to go 'outside the gate' of Judaism to meet Jesus (:12-14)**
   - **Jesus demands two requirements from the readers**
     1. **Commitment (:14)**
        - **Sacrifice and praise**
     2. **Service (:15-16)**
        - **Do good and be willing to share**

17 "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." **(Heb 13:17)**

3. **Obey your present spiritual leaders (:17)**
   - **Believer's have the responsibility to help the leaders rule with joy and satisfaction**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

18 "Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. 19 But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner." **(Heb 13:18–19)**

PERSONAL OBLIGATIONS

1. **Pray for church leadership (:18)**
   - **Author requests specific prayers from believers that he would be released from prison (:19)**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

20 "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. 22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. 23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. 24 Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. 25 Grace be with you all. Amen." **(Heb 13:20–25)**

FIVE FEATURES OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

1. **Purpose of maturity – Perfection in every good work**
2. **Goal of maturity – To do the will of God**
3. **Source of maturity – God working in us that which is pleasing in His sight**
4. **Means of maturity – Empowered through Jesus Christ**
5. **End of maturity – To glorify God**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

SUMMARY

- **Patient Endurance is a common theme of Hebrews**
- **Hebrews warns against apostasy and failure to progress in spiritual maturity**
- **It also warns against complacency towards allowing sin in our lives**
- **Hebrews describes in great detail the superiority of Jesus:**
  - **As a Melkizedekian High Priest over the Aaronic Priesthood**
  - **As a Mediator of a new, 'better' covenant over the Mosaic (Old covenant)**
  - **As High Priest in a heavenly, not earthly temple**
  - **On the basis of His blood instead of the blood of bulls and goats**
- **We are encouraged/commanded to boldly come into the Holies of All on the basis of the 'better' blood of Jesus that we may 'obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need'!**
- **We are promised that 'by one offering' Jesus 'has perfected forever' the believers 'who are being sanctified'!**
- **We are told to 'lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us' and 'run with endurance the race that is before us'!**

Hebrews: Concluding Exhortations

THE END OF THE STORY

We can determine from three ancient writings how the readers of Hebrews responded to the author's warnings to not return to Judaism. The first writer is Josephus, a 1st century Jewish historian and eyewitness to the events of AD70. The second writer is Heggisippus, a 2nd century Jewish believer. The third is Eusebius, a 4th century gentile believer.

When the Jewish believers received the letter of Hebrews, they read it and they obeyed. They made their break with Judaism once-and-for-all complete. Within a two year period of time after letter was written, the First Jewish Revolt broke out in AD66. At that point, the entire community of Jewish believers, numbering greater than 20,0000, left the country, crossed the Jordan River to the East Bank and went up to the city of Pella. There they waited out the war. Four years later the war ended with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple as Jesus had predicted. A total of 1,100,000 Jews were killed in that Roman conflict. These three writers indicate that not a single Jewish believer lost his life in that conflict because of their obedience to the letter of Hebrews.

Thus, the book of Hebrews had a happy ending!!!