



## Lesson 21

**Title:** Christ is Superior to Joshua (Part 3)

**Scripture:** Hebrews 4:11-16

### WARNINGS in the HEBREWS

- ❶ (Hebrews 2:1-3) The **DANGER of DRIFTING AWAY**. Failure to take God's Word seriously.
- ❷ (Hebrews 3:1-4:13) The **DANGER of UNBELIEF**. Failure to take God's Word seriously.
- ❸ (Hebrews 5:11-6:20) The **DANGER of NOT MATURING** in the faith. Failure to take God's Word seriously.
- ❹ (Hebrews 10:26-39) The **DANGER of NOT PERSEVERING**. Failure to take God's Word seriously.
- ❺ (Hebrews 12:25-30) The **DANGER of REFUSING GOD**. Failure to take God's Word seriously.

**THEREFORE . . .** (Hebrews 4:1)

**Rest and Fear** (Hebrews 4:1)

**Let Us Fear** (Hebrews 4:1)

- ★ **BUT HERE, IN CONTEXT, WE ARE TO FEAR WHAT WE WERE JUST TOLD IN CHAPTER 3 - WE MUST FEAR OF FALLING INTO UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE!!!!**
- ★ How does one fear in this context?
  - ❶ Walking circumspectly. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
  - ❷ Diligently guarding our hearts. (Proverbs 4:23)
  - ❸ Being watchful and vigilant. (1 Peter 5:8)
  - ❹ Being steadfast in the faith. (1 Peter 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 3:6, 14; Colossians 2:22-23; **2 Peter 3:17**)
  - ❺ Being watchful and serious in our prayers. (1 Peter 4:7)
  - ❻ Praying, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

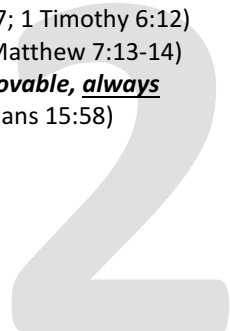
- ⑦ Praying, “Lead us not into temptation.” (Matthew 6:13; 26:41)
- ⑧ Distrusting ourselves but trusting God in all our ways. (Proverbs 3:5-7; Jeremiah 7:)
- ⑨ That God’s exhortations and warnings seriously! The word “beware” is used 18 times in the New Testament. Consider one of them - Colossians 2:8.

### The PROMISE (Hebrews 4:1) See Hebrews 11:13-16

- The PROMISE is a far off . . .
- The PROMISE must PERSUADE US . . . (we must be CONVINCED).
- The PROMISE must be EMBRACED . . . (to become one’s own).
- All of God’s PROMISES are YES in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- God is/has accomplished His ETERNAL PURPOSE in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 3:11)

### Diligence! (Hebrews 4:11)

- Diligent is the **opposite** of lazy! (See Zephaniah 1:12; Amos 6:1; Jeremiah 7:4; 6:11-19; 8:11)
- “diligent” is the Greek word σπουδάζω spoudazo {spoo-dad'-zo} which means “to make every effort”; “to exert one’s self”; “to labour”
- There is no teaching, concept, hint, or idea in the New Testament that teaches that those who are **not** diligent will ever enter the kingdom of heaven.
- The New Testament pictures the Christian life as:
  - ① A **lifetime** of **working out** one’s salvation. (Philippians 2:12)
  - ② A constant **pressing forward** for the reward set before them. (Philippians 3:13-14)
  - ③ A life of **labouring** for things or eternal value. (John 6:26-27)
  - ④ **Running** the race set before **in order to win that race**. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:1)
  - ⑤ A **fight** to be fought **and** won. (2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:12)
  - ⑥ A narrow and difficult path to be **walked**. (Matthew 7:13-14)
- Christians are **commanded** to be **steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**. (1 Corinthians 15:58)



- The **DANGER** being warned about is that of STARTING OUT GOOD and THEN FALLING AWAY – just as Christ warned in His parable of soils in Matthew 13:20-22.
- This is a **REAL DANGER** that happens to MANY!

### Why Should We Make Every Effort? (Hebrews 4:12-13)

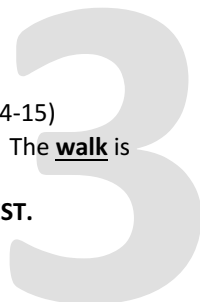
- The Holy Spirit first gives us a **NEGATIVE** (vv. 12-13) reason and then a **POSITIVE** (vv. 14-15) reason.
- “For” connects us with verse 11.



- The WORD of GOD **divides!** The WORD of GOD divides the thoughts and intents of heart from the words of our mouths. (See Genesis 6:5; 8:21)
- It divides the joints (external) from the marrow (internal).
- When God speaks, He is absolutely **serious**.
- God will **separate** those who “say” they are Christians from those who “are” Christians. True Christians **do** the will of God. (**Matthew 7:21-23; John 8:31; 10:27-29; 15:8, 10-14; Romans 2:6-11; 1 John 2:17**)
- The Word of God **JUDGES** us. The Word of GOD is **FINAL**.
  - This takes us back to the **warning** in Hebrews 2:1!
- N • We are **not** judged by what we do or what we say! We are judged by **who we are!**
- God does not look on the outside. He looks deep into the heart! (1 Sam 16:7)
- We **must** give an account to God. We are **accountable** to Him!
  - **NOTHING** is hidden from God’s sight.
  - **NOTHING** will escape His final judgment.
  - **ALL** must give an account!

### Why Should We Make Every Effort? (Hebrews 4:14-15)

- The **work** is **hard**. The **race** long. The **battle** tough. The **walk** is difficult.
- Despite the difficulties **we have a GREAT HIGH PRIEST**.



- Just as Aaron (the High Priest) had to walk through three doorways on the Day of Atonement, **our** High Priest, **JESUS, the Son of God** passed through the heavens! He entered the **third** heaven (to the presence of God Himself) to make atonement for us! (2 Cor 12:2)
- Jesus (His human name), the Son of God (His divine title)!
- Unlike Aaron, our GREAT HIGH PRIEST did not leave the heavenly Holy of Holies, **but** SAT DOWN because His work was **finished!**
- **THIS IS A GOOD REASON NOT TO GIVE UP BUT TO HOLD FAST TO OUR CONFESSION!**
- He is a **PERFECT PERSON**. He KNOWS our weakness, struggles, feelings, troubles, etc. because He was in **all** points tempted (tested) as we are – **YET HE WAS WITHOUT SIN.**
- Christ **KNOWS** our temptations and has promised to lead us **out** of them! (1 Cor. 10:13)
  - He KNOWS our limits!
  - He KNOWS our weaknesses!
  - He WATCHES over us!
  - He INTERCEDES for us!

#### **THEREFORE . . .** (Hebrews 4:16)

- “Let us . . .” The author is including himself!
- We can come **boldly** (not proudly) to the **throne of God**. We have direct access because of GRACE! (Romans 5:1)
- Why do we come to the **throne of GOD** – for:
  - **MERCY**. We are **great sinners** against His love. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
  - **GRACE**. He gives more grace to the humble. (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)
  - **HELP**. He is my Helper! (Psalm 121; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 46:1; 124:8; 146:5-6; Isaiah 41:13; Hosea 13:9)

