



Strand #3 – A Savior who knows suffering

Hebrews 2, New Testament

In week 7 of *A CORD OF THREE STRANDS*, our focus for 3 weeks will be in the New Testament letter written to the *Hebrews*, a group of new Christians who were Jewish, who lived outside of Palestine, in a larger Hebrew community that was growing increasingly hostile to Jewish people who had begun to believe in and follow Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah.

Why our focus in this letter? Because it taught these early believers, and us today, that to FINISH WELL, we need a Savior who can has ALREADY NAVIGATED the tough stuff that comes to us, and is EAGER TO HELP US through it to glory. **He is that all important 3rd strand** of our 3-fold cord. This week's teaching, from Hebrews 2, underscored our confidence:

***My confidence about finishing well
is in a pioneering Savior who's
"been there, done that," and is in charge of my salvation.***

GETTING STARTED – our teaching from *Hebrews* noted that these 1st century Christians, like Christians today, were considering giving up their faith. Let's take a moment with this:

- ♦ have you ever considered giving up on Christianity, and putting to an end your faith? If so, what was going on?
- ♦ Do you know of someone who has? If so, what was behind the abandoning of faith? Was it permanent, or temporary?
- ♦ Do you think a truly born-again person can stop believing?

IN THE SCRIPTURES – Hebrews 2 urges these Christians to understand both the danger of "neglecting" the salvation God has given to us and the *rewarding joy ahead* if we keep trusting that Jesus will bring us to glory (2:10). Let's explore these two areas.

#1 How do the following passages describe what can happen to Christians enticed to give up? (read vss & discuss)

Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:12-13, 4:1-3, 5:11-12, 6:11-12, 10:26, 10:35-36, 12:15

Conversely...

#2 What are the prospects for Christians who stay faithful in following their Pioneering Savior? (read vss. & discuss)

Hebrews 2:10-11, 3:1-6, 4:10-11a, 6:9-11, 6:19-20, 10:19-25, 10:35, 11:39-40, 12:22-24, 13:13-14

SUMMARIZE – what is sobering about #1? What is encouraging about #2?

SOME TIME TO APPLY - Because *Hebrews* is a book we read less frequently, what we've discovered in this study can raise many questions. Yet it is the Spirit's call for Christians to realize they have a Savior who didn't give up, and who can bring them to glory. As you finish,

- ♦ how critical is "hanging together" to each of us "staying faithful"?
- ♦ do you sense a fresh need for mutual accountability in our journey with Jesus?

EXPLANATORY NOTE!

Because the author of *Hebrews* is addressing Christians, we need to understand *what Christians can lose* if they give up on faith. Clearly, the Holy Spirit in *Hebrews* warns Christians that to give up on faith is (1) to **invite** God's **judgment** into to their current lives, and (2) to **forfeit** the **rewards** God promises for faithfulness, rewards that are realized in the Kingdom era on earth over which Jesus and faithful saints will reign (cf. Rev. 20:1-6).

NOTE: Scripture teaches that the FREE GIFT of eternal life cannot be lost...but REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS can (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

Pastor David Staff

Series key truth -- *In a world of unavoidable tough stuff, we are unbroken conquerors when woven together with God and godly companions.*