

STUDY NOTES

HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Abiding in Faith, Hope, and Love" on 3/22/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 10 (READ THROUGHOUT)

FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

Jesus gives us access to the holy presence of God. We no longer need a temple, yearly sacrifices, or human high priest to have access to God. Jesus gives us that access. **Read Hebrews 10:19-25.** We can draw near to God with full assurance of faith because of Jesus.

- *Why is it so important that we are given direct access to God through Jesus? How can this season of social distancing remind you that you have direct access to God?*

ACCESS TO GOD

Because of the access to God that we've been given, the author tells us to have faith, hope, and love. This sounds like what the apostle Paul wrote about as well. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-13.** Paul tells us to grow into maturity. This maturity is living a life that is selfless.

The only way to be whole is to practice the greatest commandments: love God and love others.

- *Why should our access to God motivate us to live selflessly?*

- *How have you seen that difficult times usually motivate people to live selfishly instead of selflessly?*

The writer of Hebrews talks about living in love because the "Day" is drawing near. This day to which he refers could be referring to two things: the coming day when Israel was destroyed by her enemies or the return of Jesus when he will judge the earth. Either way, it is clear that the writer of Hebrews is telling the people that in the midst of chaos, our faith, hope, and love need to be in Jesus.

We have nothing to fear as we fall into the gracious hands of Jesus.

- *How do times of chaos often reveal where we place our faith, hope, and love?*

NEGLECTING CHRIST

Read Hebrews 10:26-31. This passage warns us that if we fall into the trap of placing our hope in other things or trying to earn our standing with Christ, then we will fall into the judgment of God. Our faith must be in Jesus alone, not in ourselves or the things of this world! As Christians, we have an abiding possession in Jesus. We don't have to worry about the things in this world. We should act in wisdom, but not in worry.

- *What can it look like to act in wisdom during this time rather than worry?*

CONFIDENCE TO THE END

Read Hebrews 10:32-39. We have a kingdom possession that can't be taken from us. The reward that we get is Jesus. There is enough of Jesus to go around. We don't have to shrink back in fear. We can step forward because we have confidence in Jesus to be with us to the very end.

Christians don't shrink back in fear. Christians step forward in faith.

- *How does the example and love of Jesus encourage you to step forward in faith? And what does that look like during times like this?*
- *Pray with each other for the Church to follow Jesus in faith during this time.*