**Daily Bible Study Questions & Answers for the Week of February 17, 2025**

 We’re trying a new format this week. The questions and the answers are all here on the same

 page. (Please let me know if this new format helps you to learn better.) When you come upon a

 question in this new format, **take your time and ponder your answer** (before reading mine).

 Then type your answers into your computer or write them in a notebook before reading my answers.

**Monday - Read Hebrews 10:19-25**

 The chapter and verse numbers that we have in our Bibles today were added twelve centuries after Jesus lived, by Cardinal Stephen Langton, in 1205AD. And, for the most part, Cardinal Langton did a great job. But not so much in the section that we know as Hebrews 10. The first 18 verses of what we call “Hebrews 10” actually continue the thoughts of Hebrews 9, which we covered last week. We don’t get any new thoughts in chapter 10 until verse 19. Did you notice the first word of 10:19? Locate it and circle it in your Bible. One trick that’s often taught in seminaries is to ask, *“What is the ‘therefore’ there for?”*

So … why do you think the author used the word ***“Therefore”*** in verse 19? He’s been building a “case”, hasn’t he? Like a lawyer, he’s been trying to show his readers reasons why they should not go back to their Jewish faith and leave their faith in Jesus behind. He’s telling them, beginning in verse 19, “Therefore, given everything I’ve written to you thus far, you should hold on to your faith in Jesus!”

 But why? Let’s see his answers, verse by verse. Verse 19 – (because of Jesus) we can now do what only the High Priest was permitted to do: ***“enter the Most Holy Place”***! How is that possible, with all of our sins? ***“By the blood of Jesus,”*** which washes our sins away! Verse 22 – now we can ***“draw near to God”*** in a totally honest, ***“sincere”***, manner – hiding nothing, being ourselves with God – because the blood of Jesus is able to ***“cleanse us from a guilty conscience”***. Verse 23 – this is our ***“hope”*** because God is ***“faithful”*** to all of the promises he gave us in the Old Testament. But it’s not only our hope. Verse 24 – now that our **PAST** guilt has been washed away *and* we can come into God’s presence **NOW** *and* we have a hope for the **FUTURE**, we should ***“spur one another on toward love and good deeds”.*** Verse 25 – and a HUGE part of doing that is ***“meeting together”*** in weekly worship and in small groups. Yes, it’s our natural human tendency to become lax in getting together with other believers, ***“as some are in the habit of doing”***. But we need to ***“encourage one another”*** in this area. Who could YOU encourage to return to worship? Who could you ***“spur … on toward love and good deeds”***?

 Prayer For Today – Pray for those in our church family who have gotten into the ***“habit”*** of not ***“meeting together”*** (i.e. worship) with their church family. And maybe call/text/email them. 😊

**Tuesday - Read Hebrews 10:26-31**

 Have you ever known anyone who became a Christian, (coming forward at the end of a sermon, or raising their hand to accept Christ), but their sinful lifestyle never changed? Some people teach that all a person has to do is “accept Christ into their heart” and they will be saved forever. But that isn’t biblical. These verses today deal with this problem, which is as old as the gospel. Verse 26 – any person who believes that Jesus died for their sins on the cross but who deliberately keeps practicing sin is rejecting the life that Jesus taught us to live after we are saved. And that rejection negates their salvation going forward. I know, that raises a ton of questions like does this mean that “real Christians” don’t deliberately sin? Of course not. After all, we’re still human. What do you think the key word is in v. 26, to help us understand this? It’s the word ***“keeps”***. The word ***“keeps”*** reflects the Greek verb tense used by the author to indicate *continual and repeated* action. In other words, the author is saying that any person who believes that Jesus died for their sins on the cross but who deliberately keeps practicing sin over and over and over again has turned their back on their Savior, Jesus. So, for them, because of their continued sinful choices, there is ***“no sacrifice for sins left”***. And the following verses spool out the dreadful consequences of choosing to live like this (even while claiming, “But I believe in Jesus! I’m a Christian!”)

 Prayer For Today – Pray for any defiant sinners whom you personally know.

**Wednesday - Read Hebrews 10:32-39**

 Verse 32 – to help any of his readers who may be in the “fallen believer” category of yesterday’s verses, the author asks them to ***“remember those earlier days”*** when they first became a Christian and stood up so bravely for the gospel and saw others persecuted for it. Verse 34 – maybe the readers were persecuted themselves (***“the confiscation of your property”***)! Verse 35 – he encourages them (practicing what he told his readers to do, back in verse 25) not to ***“throw away”*** their faith (***“confidence”***) but, instead, to ***“persevere so that … you will receive what he has promised”***.

Verse 39 – the choice is always ours, however. We can choose to persevere or we can choose to ***“shrink back”***. We can choose to ***“believe”*** and keep our salvation, or choose to turn our back on it and lose it. That’s the incredible power of the free will which God has given to everyone.

 Prayer For Today – Pray for newer Christians you know who have fallen away from God.

**Thursday - Read Hebrews 11:1-5**

 Another way that the author tried to help any of his readers who may be in the “fallen believer” category was to give them example after example of people in the Old Testament who went through horrible experiences, but who kept their faith. Verse 1 – the author’s amazing definition of faith sets the stage for person after person coming to ‘stage center’ and telling their story. I wonder if you can memorize his definition in verse 1? Notice the seeming contradictions in the definition: we are ***“sure”*** and ***“certain”*** of what we only ***“hope for”*** and ***“do not see”***. In other words, we can’t prove the existence of God with any of our senses, and we can’t prove that Jesus took our sins upon himself on the cross, anymore than we can prove that our car brakes are going to work when we leave our driveway. But we turn the key, leave the driveway and go on our merry way every morning. How? On faith. We get it.

 Prayer For Today – Pray by memorizing the author’s definition of faith in 11:1.

**Friday - Read Hebrews 11:6**

 What two things does the author tell us we must we do to ***“please God”***? (Hey, who wouldn’t like to know that, right????) The author tells us, first, ***“believe that he exists”***. Second, ***“earnestly seek him”***. What does that second part mean to you? To me it means doing our part to have a *personal* relationship with the God of the Universe! How do we do that? It always comes down to using the means of grace, doesn’t it? If we want to ***“earnestly seek”*** God we have to use the ways to do that He’s given us.

 Prayer For Today – Pray by laying your plans for today/tomorrow before the God of the Universe.

**Saturday - Read Hebrews 11:7-16**

 Did you notice that these verses say that Noah, Abraham and Sarah did not get to heaven when they died, despite having great faith in God? Why didn’t they go to heaven? The answer isn’t contained in today’s verses, but do you know why? Here’s why: they had no way to be rid of their sins, since Jesus hadn’t lived yet. (Re-read Hebrews 10:1-4) And heaven is only for the sinless. Do we see how life-changing the birth and sacrifice of Jesus was? And how all religions are not the same?

 Prayer For Today – Pray for someone you know who has no way to be rid of their sins, because no one has told them yet that Jesus took their sins upon himself, on the cross.

**Sunday - Read Hebrews 11:17-31**

 Verse 19 – Abraham showed his great faith in God by being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac (see Genesis 22:2), yet he told his servants, ***“We will come back to you,”*** (see Genesis 22:5), meaning he believed ***“God could raise the dead”***. Have you ever looked at the examples of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses’ parents, Moses and Rahab as inspirational before? Could you today?

 Prayer For Today – Pray that God would increase your faith, as you ponder the challenges in your future, to the faith levels of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses’ parents, Moses and Rahab.