

## Monday, September 7, 2009

Today is day 105 of summer 2009, the grand finale. How will you make best use of this day as you draw your summer to a close? Our theme has been “Anchors for the Soul”, so what old anchors have you “cut loose” that were dragging you down, and what new anchors have you discovered which will hold you firm in the storms ahead? This weekend I gave you a card to help you reflect on your summer...take it out and look at it again. Pray over it...what does the Holy Spirit tell you?

Read Hebrews 10:32 all the way through chapter 13 today. You have a family history. If you draw your family tree on a paper, how far back can you go? Try it. Now circle the names whose reputations were God honoring. Next to each man in your family put one word in parenthesis which best represents their life. Look closely...you were born into a family heritage. Is it rich or dysfunctional? Do you celebrate it or wish it was much different? Compare it to Heb. 10:32-11:40. Note please, your name in your family tree. Three generations from now your name will be on top of the paper as your great grandchildren talk about their family...and what heritage will they talk about that has its foundation in your life?

Hebrews 10:32-39 speaks of a time in history when Roman empire Christians were persecuted and some martyred. Since the days of Jesus, rejection of Jesus by persecuting His followers has been a pattern world-wide. Jesus predicted it (John 15:18-16:4). Similar suffering is taking place today in many parts of the world. Consider Romans 5:3-5 and 1 Peter 4:12-19. So, what anchor of hope do you hold tightly in the face of persecution? What does Heb. 10:32-39 look like in your life? Acts 7:54-8:3 is an example of what it was like for some Jerusalem Christians in the first century.

*“So do not throw away your confidence, it will be greatly rewarded. We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”* (Heb. 10:35, 39). Can you say AMEN to that as we close summer 2009??

## Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Hebrews 11 is a great way to begin fall 2009. Summer is a memory now, and hopefully you made great use of those 105 days. *“Now FAITH is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”* (Heb. 11:1) Do you have some great “ancients” in your family tree? Someday you’ll be an “ancient”!! Yesterday I challenged you to draw out your family tree, what did you find? What significant contribution are you making to your family heritage as it is refined in your generation and passed to your children and grandchildren?

*“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”* (Heb. 11:6) Consider Jeremiah 29:13 and Isaiah 55:6,7. You and I both know what it is to pursue something. Sports fans follow their favorite teams with passion, seeking to watch them live or on TV at anytime. Young people in love call each other often, seeking to find time with each other. Businessmen passionately pursue financial success. Students pursue knowledge, grades and degrees. So what does it look like for someone to “earnestly seek God”?

Hebrews 11 is often called the “roll call of faith”. A short list of great heroes of Jewish and Christian heritage, who pursued knowing God so well, they could live their lives in obedience to His guidance, even if it meant building an ark when no one had ever seen a flood / packing up and leaving home, moving to an unknown destination, just following God / leading 2 million people out of slavery and toward an unknown Promised Land, depending on God’s daily provision of food and water, etc. So, how do you measure your “pursuit of knowing God well enough that you can follow His leading in your life”? What specific examples can you think of in your life which reflect your obedience to God’s clear direction to you? This type of FAITH is found only in knowing God well, do you?

## Wednesday, September 9, 2009

This evening all Fall Summit leaders will be gathering to hear a clear vision for what we believe God wants to do among us on Wednesday nights at Calvary this fall. Think about that. Do you believe God had some specific objectives in His mind for you this past summer...lessons He wanted to teach you, relationships He wanted to draw you into, people He wanted to touch through you, changes He wanted to accomplish in you as He continues refining you in to His design for you? Look back...do you see God at work in your life this summer like a sculptor re-shaping you? Did you resist Him?

Now it is fall 2009. Are you a man or woman of great Faith? Are you seeking to know God really well? What if God has planned significant things in this era of time that He wants to accomplish through you? Are you the Noah or Abraham or Hannah or Joshua or Peter or Mary of our day? Look at Hebrews 12:1-3 today. Who are your “great cloud of witnesses”? Those who have gone before you, preparing your way? Those whose lives have or are powerfully influencing you? Those watching you closely because they are learning from you?

*“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”* We understand boat racing, track and field races, football, baseball, basketball games...they all have marked courses to sail or run, or fields with clearly marked boundaries. So, what “course” has God laid out before you as your “life race” to run? What is the degree of perseverance which you have demonstrated in your life thus far? Do you stay easily within the boundaries or find yourself often drifting off course? What are those things that “hinder” you or the “sin that so easily entangles” you?

As you know, success will depend largely on your ability to “throw off” the things which hinder you. Are you doing so effectively and consistently? You also know how devastating it can be wandering off course...why do you? What has to change for you this fall? Is Heb. 12:2,3 your answer?

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Self discipline...is that one of your life traits? What area of your life is most disciplined, and what area tends to be "out of control"? Consider Hebrews 12:1-11 and link it with James chapter 1. You and I live in a complex world which is often filled with disappointment, broken promises, even outright injustice or unfairness. From failed hard drives to unreliable automobiles to rising taxes to difficult people...it's real life. Why do we believe life should be easy, comfortable and always fun? Why, when difficult things happen, do we assume God is either not paying attention, is punishing us or allowing the devil to have a field day with us? Hebrews calls us to consider it may in fact be that God is refining us, teaching us, helping us grow stronger and more disciplined. James even calls us to consider it "pure joy" when we face difficulty! How is that possible?

All of Hebrews has been calling us to understand the rich privilege we have of knowing Christ Jesus and taking advantage of His present role as our Mediator in the very presence of God's "Most Holy Place". Remember 10:19-25? First century Christians were sometimes feeling sorry for themselves. Persecution was very real...lost jobs, broken engagements, homes burned, animals stolen or killed, children harassed on the way to school, merchants refusing to sell to them, etc. Hebrews was calling them to realize God may be using these difficult times to refine them, strengthen them, and build strong character in them. God was looking beyond them to the next generations and what their children would be facing in opposition/persecution. He knew the strength the children would need to see in their parents and grandparents. Do you notice God is often looking forward two or three generations as He works in the present generation?? How does that affect you?

Look closely at Hebrews 12:14,15. What does a "bitter root" look like? Have you noticed unforgiveness and bitterness are like cancer that eats away at you, consuming you from the inside? Uproot it. Live 1 Peter 2:9,10!

Friday, September 11, 2009

Is it possible you've met an angel and didn't know it? What does Hebrews 13:2 say? Angels, as you know, are "messengers from God". There are millions of angels (Rev. 5:11) some of whom come to earth on missions from God (Luke 1:19). Today read Hebrews 13, as we draw our study of Hebrews to a close. Strong words! Several wonderful challenges:

*"marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."* WOW! Doesn't need much explanation does it? How's your marriage?

*"keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."* Did you know the Bible speaks as much about money as almost any other topic? God knows it can easily control us. That's why we're hosting the Dave Ramsey event Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. I urge you to be there...learn as much as you can to help the many who are struggling in these difficult economic times. Remember Matt. 6:19-34?

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"*. Link that with Malachi 3:6 *"I the LORD do not change"*. What does that mean for you?

*"Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings."* Link that with Ephes. 4:14-16 and Col. 2:8, what do you see. Are you standing strong?

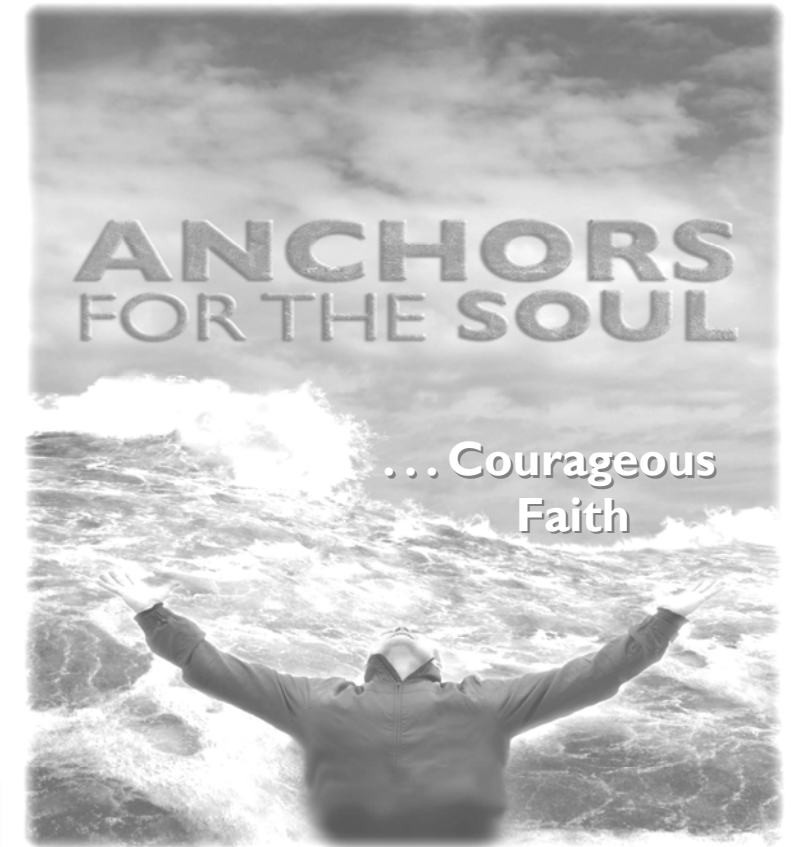
*"let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess His name."* Link it with 1 Peter 3:15,16! How often do you speak hope into despair, wisdom into confusion, truth into doubt? Do your language and words bring delight to God and great help to others?

Now look at those closing words of Hebrews 13:20, 21. Receive it from this ancient book as a personal word of exhortation to you as an "anchor for your soul". Thanks for a great summer 09!



Pastor Doug Anderson

September 7 - September 11, 2009



### Verse of the Week

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Heb. 11:1)*

*"Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Heb. 12:1-3)*

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Highway 50 & Harris Road  
P.O. Box 1200 • Williams Bay, WI 53191  
(262) 245-6294  
www.calvarycommunity.net