

Note: Articles in this issue are written by two men taking part in our Thursday night classes for those interested in studying the word of God and teaching/preaching it to others.

Better Things in the Book of Hebrews

Brad Phillips

What do you think of when you hear the word “better”? Generally, the word is used in reference to something that is more desirable or of greater value. The Hebrew writer refers to several things that are of greater value and more desirable in his epistle to the Hebrews. Let us examine some better things.

1) **The Son of God.**

The Hebrew writer begins by saying, “God...has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things...” (Heb. 1:1-2). He went on to pen, “having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Heb. 1:4). Jesus, the Son of God, is better than the angels!

2) **Hope.** Hebrews 7:19 mentions “...a better hope....” What or who is this better hope, through which we draw near to God? We find the answer in verse 22, “by so

much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.” Paul wrote of “... the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope” (1 Tim. 1:1).

3) **Covenant.** The inspired writer tells us, “He (Jesus) is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises” (Heb. 8:6). Why is the new covenant better? The first covenant was not found faultless (Heb. 8:7), the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin (Heb. 10:4), and Christ was sacrificed as a one-time offering for sin forever (Heb. 10:12).

4) **Possession.** Hebrews 10:34 says, “for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.” Eternal life in heaven is the great reward that awaits those who do the will of God (Heb. 10:35-39). Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves

treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Mt. 6:19-20). Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven in order to obtain this better possession!

5) **Country.** In Hebrews 11, we read about many faithful servants of God, who died in faith with the assurance of obtaining a home in a better country. “But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (Heb. 11:16). I believe all of us want to obtain a home in this heavenly country. Therefore, be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10), and you too can have the assurance of a better country!

These are some of the better things in the book of Hebrews.

Let Us Consider One Another

Michael Riddle

In the “better” book (Hebrews), the writer often makes his appeal, “Let us” as a means of urging brethren to take action. This phrase occurs 12 times within the book of Hebrews, more often than any other New Testament book. One of these appeals is, “Let us consider one another...” (10:24). We have responsibilities, not only to ourselves, but also to the brethren. Let us examine what Hebrews says about considering one another.

1) *To Provoke unto Love and Good Works.*

To provoke is to ‘stir up’ or to arouse within someone. We are to stir up one another to love and good works. The Hebrew writer begins the last chapter by urging them, “Let brotherly love continue” (Heb. 13:1). When we consider one another to provoke unto love and good works, we will “esteem each other better than ourselves” (Phil. 2:3). We

read in Romans 12:10 that we are to be “kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love”. In order for us to stir up the brethren to love and good works, we must show love to one another.

2) *Not Forsaking the Assembling.* Many today fail to realize that in order to provoke one another unto love and good works, we must spend time with the brethren. We find Christians of the first century who were “together and had all things in common” (Acts 2:42-46). We are commanded to assemble on the Lord’s Day as we see examples of Christians doing throughout the New Testament. The Christians at Troas, in Acts 20:7, came together on the first day of the week to break bread. We ought to have the attitude of the Psalmist who said, “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’” (Ps. 122:1).

3) *Exhorting One Another.* To exhort is to encourage or strengthen one another. We find many great examples of such exhortation throughout the Scriptures. We find Paul and Barnabas, after Paul was stoned, exhorting the brethren to “continue in the faith” that through much tribulation they would enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). The Hebrew writer encouraged brethren to “hold fast the profession of faith”.

4) *So Much More As You See the Day Approaching.* Realizing that life on this earth is short (Jas. 4:14) and the Lord is coming quickly (Rev. 22:20), we must consider one another while it is called today.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24).

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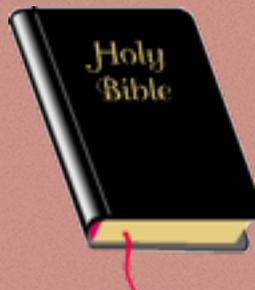
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