



# Hebrews

PART 4 – WHAT INHERITANCE AWAITS US? KEY THEMES IN HEBREWS

# Objectives

- ▶ Building on the historical context of Hebrews, our understanding of the work that the genealogy is doing (building a faith community), and an expanded knowledge of Jesus
- ▶ Reflect on the overall message of Hebrews in light of these themes: faith, endurance, rest, and hope
- ▶ Explore how these themes serve as encouragement for Christians today

# Faith

- ▶ **Now** faith is the assurance (substance) of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)
- ▶ Hall of Fame/Faith
- ▶ The Faithful Inherit the Promises
- ▶ Exemplar of Faith is Jesus, “looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (12:2)

# Endurance

- ▶ **Trained by practice.** “But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:14
- ▶ “For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” Hebrews 10:36
- ▶ “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1

# Rest

- ▶ **Sabbath Rest:** “Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it...For somewhere it speaks about the seventh day as follows, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.”
- ▶ **Eternal rest:** And again in this place it says, “They shall not enter my rest.” Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he sets a certain day—“**today**”—saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”
- ▶ **God’s rest:** “ So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God, for those who enter God’s rest also rest from their labors as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs. (Hebrews 4:1-11)

# Hope

- ▶ “We who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize **hope** set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 6:18b)
- ▶ “Christ, however, was faithful over God’s house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to **hope**.” (Hebrews 3:6)
- ▶ “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)

# Concluding Observations



- ▶ A Future: both a mindset and a place: a better country, the city of God
- ▶ Hope makes it possible to envision a different/better future; it enables us to see the invisible
- ▶ Faith provides with the substance of our belief; an enduring faith continues in difficult circumstances; rest strengthens us
- ▶ We are connected to God and to each other