**“HEBREWS FOR US TODAY”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1) Hebrews 1:1-2

 -a. these verses set forth the book of Hebrews

 -b. a book that was intended to bring forth health, vitality, growth for those in need

 2) Within this book, we find words for ***“US”*** as referring to Christians 2000 years ago,

 and as we are Christians, this ***“US”*** would still apply for our lives today

3) So, in this book we find those spiritually needing help

 spiritually sick

 malnourished

 weak

4) “Let us”, then notice some of the passages from this book that even today

 pertains unto us, and spiritual difficulties that we as well face from day to day…

**THOUGHTS:**

**(I) “LET UE FEAR, LEST WE FALL SHORT..”**

 1. Hebrews 4:1…

 -a. there **IS** a promised rest for the faithful

 -b. in context, the nation of Israel was headed towards the “Promised Lands”

 -c. but they, because of their actions, were NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER IN

 2. Notice, this rest **“REMAINS”** in that we have not obtained as yet

 -a. It is still beyond where we are right now

 -b. the nation of Israel “failed to enter” because of their “unbelief” – Heb.3:19

 -c. although we are headed to the “Promised Land”(heaven)

 -d. exercise ***“caution”*** -- Hebrews 12:15

 -e. in another letter, Paul used this exact example, then states…

 I Cor.10:12… ***“wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth,***

 ***take heed lest he fall…”***

 3. The nation of Israel ***“just knew”*** God was bringing them to the promised lands

 so they became slack in their obedience.

 4. They thought *“nothing could happen to them”*

 *“we have it made”*

 -a. and look what happened –they all died in the wilderness – Heb.4:5

 -b. Heb.3:9-12 – Israel was coming thru the wilderness for 40 years

 5.Then the writer of Hebrews stated that we are just like them in many ways

 -a.Heb.4:2

 -1-. we have had “good news” preached unto us, ***just like them***

 -2-. God had communicated HIS WILL for their lives, and we are ***just like them***

 -3-. we have the same opportunity to either “PASS” or “FAIL”

 -b. they heard, but did not follow thru

 -c. so we have heard, and what are we going to do about it???

 -d. The promise of a “REST” is still before each of us.

 -1-. Heb.4:11… ***“therefore let us give diligence to enter that rest…”***

 6. Hebrews 2:3… God has spoken…do we think there is another way of escape?

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**(II) “LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT…”**

 1. Hebrews 12:1…

 -a. those competing in the great running games(Olympics) wore “weights” on their

 ankles in practice, but when the race comes, **“THEY REMOVED THE WEIGHTS”**

 -b. the “weights” would of course “hinder”, make far more difficult their ability

 to run the race.

 -c. something really so easy for us to understand

 ILL> ***it’s hard for the boat to race if it is still tied to the dock***

 -2. It’s hard to run the race if we are trying to also carry the weights

 -3. Luke 8:11-15… parable of the sower

 -a. Luke 8:14 refers to the seed that fell among the thorns…

 -b. thorns being possibly pleasures of this life

 seeking after riches bring no fruit to perfection

 concerns for this life

 -4. ***“removing those weights”*** in most cases, is not just an overnight achievement,

 sometimes it takes months, even years as we “work on these things”

 -a. sometimes a person’s culture brought about “weights” to be discarded

 -b. sometimes a person’s personal beliefs/views are “weights” to be discarded

 -c. “weights” will hinder the ability towards running to completion

 5. “repentance” is the “turning from” the past and then “turning towards” God’s will

 Acts 17:30 ***“…God is now declaring that all men everywhere should repent..”***

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**(III) “LET US GO FORTH UNTO PERFECTION…”**

 1. Hebrews 6:1…

 -a. a baby cannot grow IF they stay with “milk”only

 -b. “milk” provides what is first needed

 -c. but “meat” in due time provides the ability to provide maturity

 2. although we start out as “babes”, a term used in the scriptures – I Pet.2:2

 -a. nothing wrong with being a “babe”

 -b. but as the years pass, and still a “babe” then presents eventual problems

 Heb.5:12.. *“…by this time ye ought to be teachers...”*

 3. The Christians addressed in the book of Hebrews had

 -a. started out on milk

 -b. but then stopped in their “spiritual growth”

 -c. their growth was ‘stunted”, thereby they had a weak faith

 -d. therefore writing to warn them of their ability to “fall away” – Heb.6:6

 4. Hebrews 6:1 starts with the word ***“therefore”***

 -a. ***“therefore”*** looks backwards as well as forwards

 -b. because of these(past actions), then these(forward movements) are to be done

 -c. seems that a foundation had been established,

 and as time passed, without it being built upon, it had become “weakened”

 -d. so again a foundation was needed

 -e. but what about the building on that “foundation”???

 -f. the purpose/outcome/maturity for the foundation---where’s the building???

 5. Your/our salvation is based upon our ***“going on unto perfection”***

 -a. Luke tells a story in Luke 11:24-26…

 -1-. Persons life had been cleaned up

 -2-. But without filling it with good things

 -3-. The “unclean spirit” returns and things actually become worse

 -b. we need to see that it is not just the:

 -1-. Setting aside of the wrong thoughts, activities, deeds

 -2-.it is then the implementing of things and thoughts that are good, true, pure

 ***WE NEED TO FILL THE EMPTY SPACE***

 -a. not just stopping from stealing, but giving unto others as need arises-Eph.4:28

 -b. not just stopping the wrong language, but speaking that which is good-Col.3:8

 -c. not just stopping from serving ourselves, but seeking to serve others-II Cor.5:15

 -d. Someone says..”I no longer do this, and this, and this ,and this…

 And that’s great………..

 **SO**

 WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW THEN???

 6. So Peter sets forth that we are to ***“ADD”…***

 -a. II Pet.1:5-fff

 -b. Although these Christians were “in Christ” we read that the writer set forth that

 they needed the ***“things that accompany salvation”*** – Hebrews 6:9

 7. Paul sets forth the “old man” as compared to the “new man” in Christ

 -a. Eph.4:22-23

 -b. Col.3:9-10

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**(IV) “LET US GO FORTH OUTSIDE TRHE CAMP BEARING HIS REPROACH..**

 1. Hebrews 13:13…

 -a. rather than inside Jerusalem’s walls, where the Jewish sacrifices were made,

 sacrifices that were esteemed as honorable, righteous, and holy

 -b. Christ, offered his sacrifice “outside the walls” separate and apart

 from the Jewish ceremonies.

 -c. as Christ suffered “outside the camp” so those who seek the Christ

 must go/ leave behind

 past religious beliefs

 past ways this world has to offer to the only true sacrifice

 past personal feelings/views

 2. Then accept the consequences to follow --- ***“bearing His reproach”***

 -a. Christianity will not necessarily bring respect and honor from others

 -b. for some, seeking Christ would bring great trials, difficulties in life

 -c. cf. Hebrews 10:32-34 – trials for their choice to follow Christ

 -d. this ‘course in life” may hinder greatness, prosperity, and popularity

 But the outcome is really all that matter – Rom.8:18

 3. I Pet.4:16… let us not be ashamed for the life we have chosen

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**(V) “LET US OFFER PRAISE…”**

 1. Hebrews 13:15…

 -a. one of the many reasons is based upon Hebrews 13:14..

 -b. the promise of ***“the city to come”*** – eternal salvation in heaven

 -c. through Him **then**, let us offer…

 2. For all that has been promised/foretold…let us offer **PRAISE!!!**

 -a. I Pet.2:5

 -b. as stated in II Sam.22:4

 ***“I will call on the Lord who is worthy to be praised…”***

 -c. for the salvation offered

 forgiveness of sins Eph. 1:3 – all spiritual blessings granted

 promise of eternal life

 3. Beyond all that we can imagine, God shall bring to pass one day –

 Eph.3:20… ***“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above***

 ***all that we ask or think..unto Him be glory..”***

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) From reading the words, **“LET US”,** we find many things which will promote

 real growth, a healthy life before God(spiritually)

2) This book was written to teach, to encourage, and strengthen those in times past,

 and as well for us TODAY, the “LET US” still serves the same purpose

3) Hebrews 10:37-39