



# Hebrews: The Whole Way

A Bible Study with John N. Oswalt at the Francis Asbury Society

## SESSION 10

*Hebrews 12*

**Background:** “Sharing the holiness of God” (Heb. 12:10). Christians are holy in two ways. The first is positional. We are holy because we belong to him, like a vessel in the Temple is holy. We can only be used for his purposes. But the second is what Christian faith is meant to issue in. That is to share his character: good, right, true, just, pure, joyful, self-giving love.

1. What imagery is he using in verses 1–2a? What is the significance of that image for us Christians?
2. According to verses 2b–4, what might be a reason why the hearers/readers might be tempted to return to Judaism?
3. If we have to endure persecution or other hardship, how should we understand it? What might be some wrong ways of viewing such things?
4. Verse 14 is a strong statement. See Background above and also verse 10. In the light of those verses, look at Hebrews 2:11; 4:9–10; 9:13, 26; 13:12 and write out a statement of what salvation is (and is not).
5. According to verse 15, what two things could prevent us from reaching the goal of our salvation, namely, being a godly person?
6. How does verse 16 fit into what verses 14 and 15 are saying? How is selling your birthright on the same level as sexual immorality, or is it?

7. Verses 18–29 are one long, extended argument built on the image of two mountains. Make two columns and put the features of each mountain in a separate column. What conclusion are we intended to draw?

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8. How do verses 28 and 29 fit in and tie the whole argument together?