

**“LOOKING UNTO JESUS”**  
**Hebrews 12:1,2**

**Introduction:**

- 1. The Hebrew Christians were being persecuted and ostracized by their Jewish friends and relatives.**
  - a. They were being pulled back toward Judaism.**
  - b. The inspired writer of Hebrews contrasts Judaism and Christianity showing that the way of Christ is better.**
  - c. In chapter eleven, he holds up the example of the great men and women of faith in the Old Testament.**
  - d. In chapter twelve, he pictures the Christian life as a race.**
  - e. The heroes of faith in chapter eleven are the spectators.**
  - f. To win, those who run must keep their eyes on Jesus.**
  
- 2. We must never take our eyes off Jesus if we want to win the crown of life.**

**Discussion:**

**I. WE MUST LOOK TO JESUS FOR SALVATION.**

- A. The world's greatest need is for salvation from sin.**
  - 1. Efforts to heal the ills of the world are like putting a band aid on a gaping wound if Jesus is not considered.**
  - 2. Buddha, Muhammed and other founders of religions cannot save for they were mere men and sinners.**
  - 3. Only Jesus, the perfect, sinless Son of God, can save.**
  
- B. Jesus came to pay the price for our sins.**

**“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15).**

1. **The prophets foretold Jesus' death for man's sins.**

**“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4,5).**

2. **Jesus accomplished our salvation when He died on the cross.**

**“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).**

## **II. WE MUST LOOK TO JESUS FOR AN EXAMPLE IN LIVING.**

- A. **Politicians, poets, philosophers, philanthropists, priests and preachers are all sinners and make mistakes.**

1. **Ghandi said he would become a Christian if he ever saw one, but he was looking in the wrong place!**
2. **A soapmaker complained to a preacher that the Gospel had been in the world for 2,000 years, yet very few behaved like Christians were supposed to; the preacher replied that soap had been in the world a lot longer, yet the world was still filled with dirty people.**
3. **A young man was raised by fine Christian parents and graduated from a Christian college; he left the church blaming the hypocrites in it, but he should have looked to Jesus, not man.**

- B. **We must look to Jesus Who will never let us down.**

**“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).**

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### **III. WE MUST LOOK TO JESUS AS LORD.**

#### **A. Jesus has the right to command and demand obedience.**

- 1. On Pentecost, Peter said: “God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”(Acts 2:36)**
- 2. Jesus has “all authority, both in Heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18).**
- 3. Jesus asked: “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).**
- 4. At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow now while there is time and opportunity (Philippians 2:10).**
- 5. The Day will come when everyone will bow before the authority of Christ, but it will be too late for many.**

**“As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:11,12).**

#### **B. If we accept Christ as Lord, we will obey Him in all things.**

**“...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:8,9).**

### **IV. WE MUST LOOK TO JESUS AS OUR MEDIATOR, HIGH PRIEST AND ADVOCATE BEFORE GOD’S THRONE.**

#### **A. Jesus is the only mediator (go between, reconciler) between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).**

- 1. Neither Mary nor “the saints” are mediators.**
- 2. Jesus is qualified for He is both God and man.**

#### **B. Jesus is our High Priest.**

1. He is both the High Priest and the Sin Offering.
2. He is superior to the priests under the Law.
  - a. They all died, but He lives for ever.
  - b. They offered for themselves, but He is sinless.
  - c. He offered Himself, a sacrifice which never needs to be repeated (Hebrews 7:22-28).

**C. Jesus is our Advocate before the Throne of God.**

1. “Paracletos” signifies a “Comforter” or “Helper” and is used of the Holy Spirit promised to the apostles (John 14:16-18, 26; 16:7-14).
2. It is used in a court of law to describe a counsel for the defense, an advocate (1 John 2:1).
3. When we ask for forgiveness, He pleads our cause before the Father.

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (1 John 2:1,2).

**Conclusion:**

1. “On the cruel cross Jesus died, Heaven’s gates to open wide;  
On the cross He took the place, of every person of every race.  
Jesus lived upon the earth, a perfect life from His birth;  
Every temptation He overcame, that we might trust in His Name.  
Jesus stands before the Throne, to acknowledge us as His own;  
Through Him we boldly pray, for grace and mercy every day.  
The Day is ever drawing near, when all before Him must appear;  
Judgment will be swift and fair, when our deeds are laid bare.”
2. If we want Jesus as our Savior, we must also accept Him as our Lord (Acts 2:36-41).

