

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

April 2, 2017

Warnings from Hebrews

by Frank Himmel

The book of Hebrews was written to Christians. The author addressed them as "holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling" (3:1). They were part of Christ's house (3:6). They were saved and expected to exhibit the "things that accompany salvation" (6:9).

Now consider some things the author warned that might happen to them.

📖 "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God" (3:12).

📖 "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (3:13).

📖 "Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it" (4:1).

📖 "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience" (4:11).

📖 "How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God,

and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" (10:29).

📖 "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled" (12:15).

📖 "See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For it those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven" (12:25).

📖 "Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefitted" (13:9).

Does anyone honestly think that a Christian can develop an unbelieving heart, fall away from God, be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, come short of God's promise, fall through disobedience, trample under foot the Son of God, regard His blood as unclean, insult the Spirit of grace, come short of the grace of God, refuse Him who is speaking, and be carried away by strange teaching—and still be saved?!

While the author expected better things of these brethren (6:9), these dangers were and are real. Why warn against the impossible? The book of Hebrews stands squarely opposed to the popular doctrine of "once saved, always saved." ■



Proverbs 29:18

by Frank Himmel

Workers at a local optical center wear t-shirts that say, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Clever!



This verse has become a popular one. Sadly, it is often misinterpreted and/or misapplied in far more serious ways than at the optical center. A common application is to the “vision” of church leaders and their grand plans. Here is an example from Rick Warren.

MY IMAGINATION INFLUENCES MY ASPIRATION. In other words, your dreams determine your destiny. To accomplish anything you must first have a mission, a goal, a hope, a vision. “Without a vision the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18.

The word *vision* is mostly used in the Old Testament of revelations from the Lord, and that is clearly the meaning here. The rest of the verse says, “But happy is he who keeps the law.” NKJV and NIV translate *revelation* instead of *vision*; ESV says *prophetic vision*.

The point of the proverb is that without God’s revelation, people tend to “cast off restraint” (most translations); they “perish” (KJV). And that applies just as much to church dreamers acting without divine authority as it does to the irreligious. ■

Keep Your Clothes



by Frank Himmel

“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame” (Revelation 16:15).

The book of Revelation has several things to say about our clothing. We need white garments, which only the Lord provides (3:18). They are made white in Jesus’ blood (7:14). Washing them in His blood is essential to entering the heavenly city (22:14). Obviously, these verses are describing our conduct, our overall lives, not simply what we wear (though that is included).

Our text gives another must: keep your clothes. In light of the commendation to Sardis (3:4), that means keeping them white and not soiling them with sin. As stated in the text, however, the point is keeping them on. We need the Lord’s forgiveness, His cleansing, but we also need His instruction. Without it, we will likely be duped by Satan and turn to conduct that is as shameful as walking around naked. 3:18 couples the ideas of being properly dressed and seeing clearly. ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Greg Winget	David Gray	Josh Baucom
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Carlos Garcia	Albert Harrison Sr
OPENING PRAYER	Brian Wilson	Kerry Gray	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Bruce Hollander	Bruce Hollander	
CUP	Steven Turner	Steven Turner	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	John Baucom		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Chris Brooks
CLOSING PRAYER	Don Rapp	Josh Baucom	Daven Daniel